

士 郎 正 宗

THE SCALES OF PROMETHEUS

# APPLESEED™

S H I R O W M A S A M U N E





**APPLESEED™**



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**APPLESEED™ BOOK THREE: THE SCALES OF PROMETHEUS**

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Third edition: August 2008  
ISBN: 978-1-59307-693-1

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1  
Printed in Canada

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士 郎 正 宗 THE SCALES OF PROMETHEUS  
**APPLESEED**™

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translation by **DANA LEWIS + TOREN SMITH**  
[ with **DUANE JOHNSON** ]

lettering by **TOM ORZECOWSKI**





006



[15] POINT MAN

054



[16] LIFE POINT

093



[17] LIVE DRIVE

106



[18] DEAD OR ALIVE

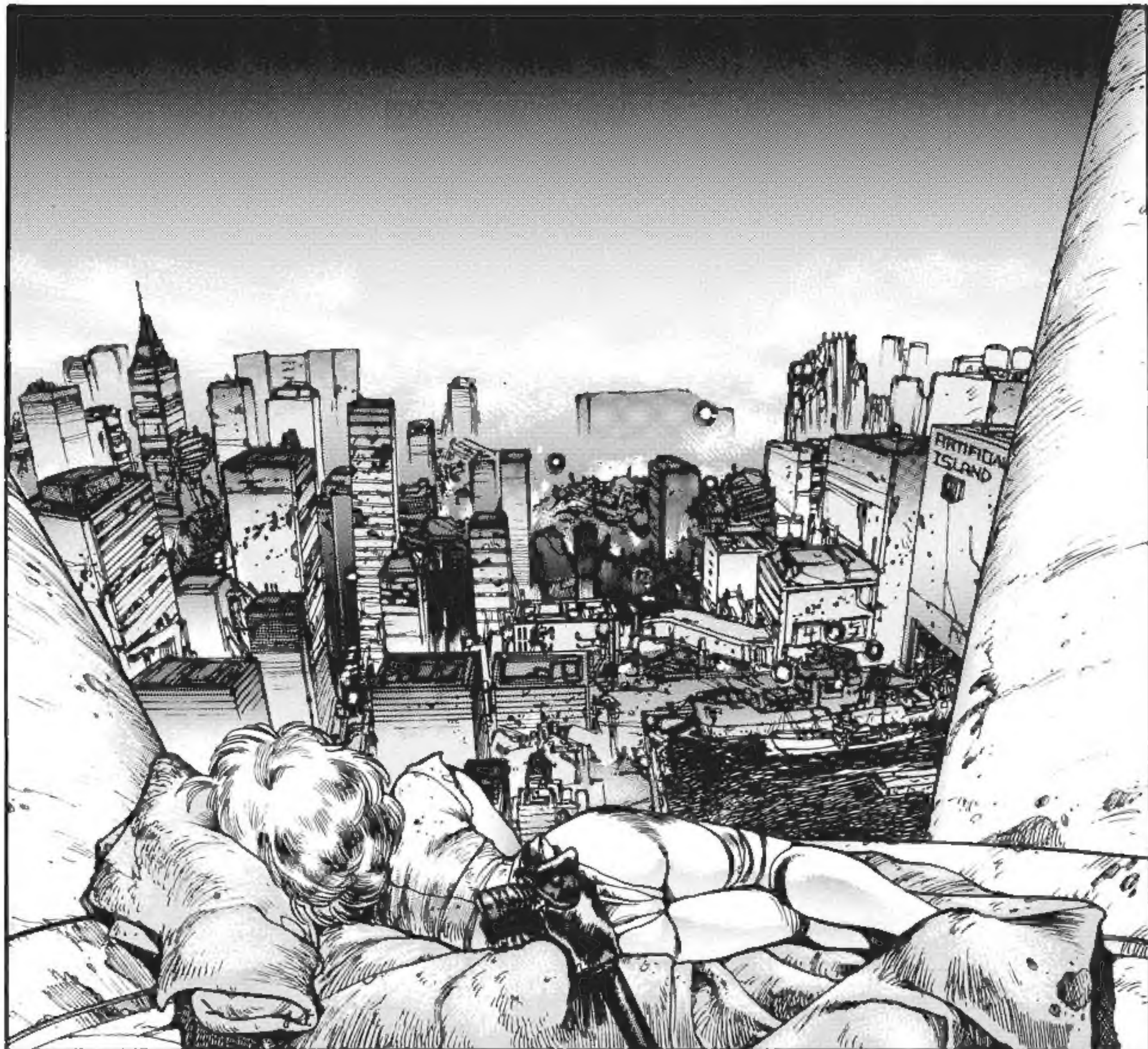
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[19] DEAD POINT

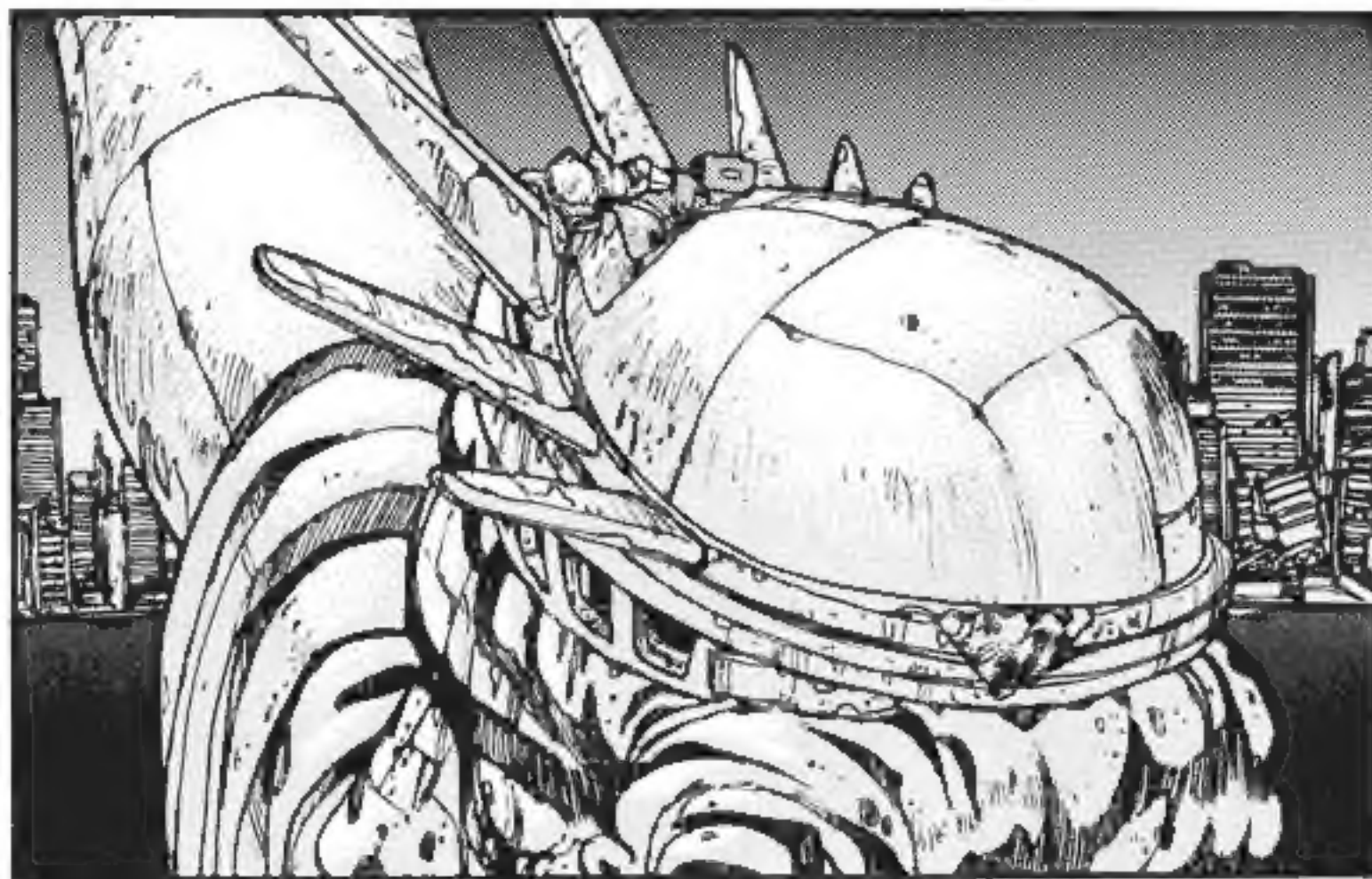
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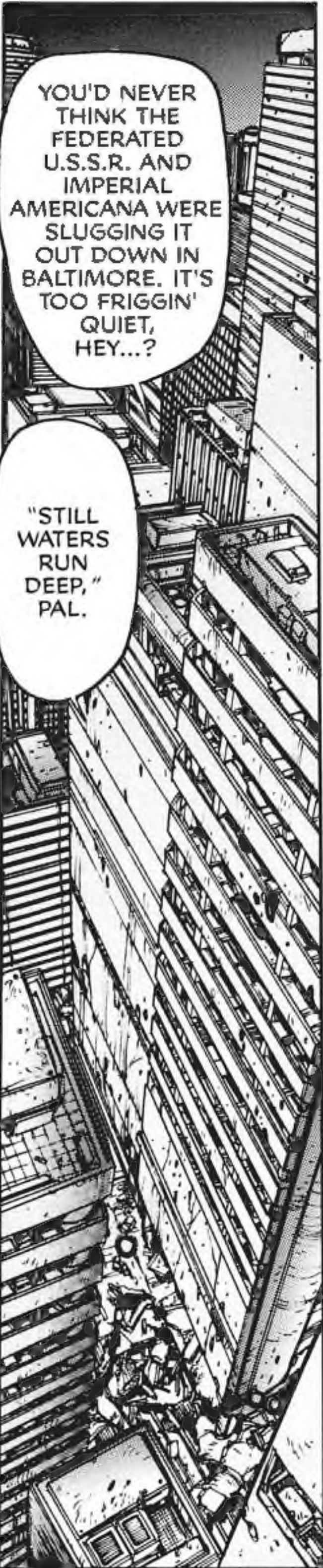


士郎正宗

SHIROW MASAMUNE







YOU'D NEVER  
THINK THE  
FEDERATED  
U.S.S.R. AND  
IMPERIAL  
AMERICANA WERE  
SLUGGING IT  
OUT DOWN IN  
BALTIMORE. IT'S  
TOO FRIGGIN'  
QUIET,  
HEY...?

"STILL  
WATERS  
RUN  
DEEP,"  
PAL.

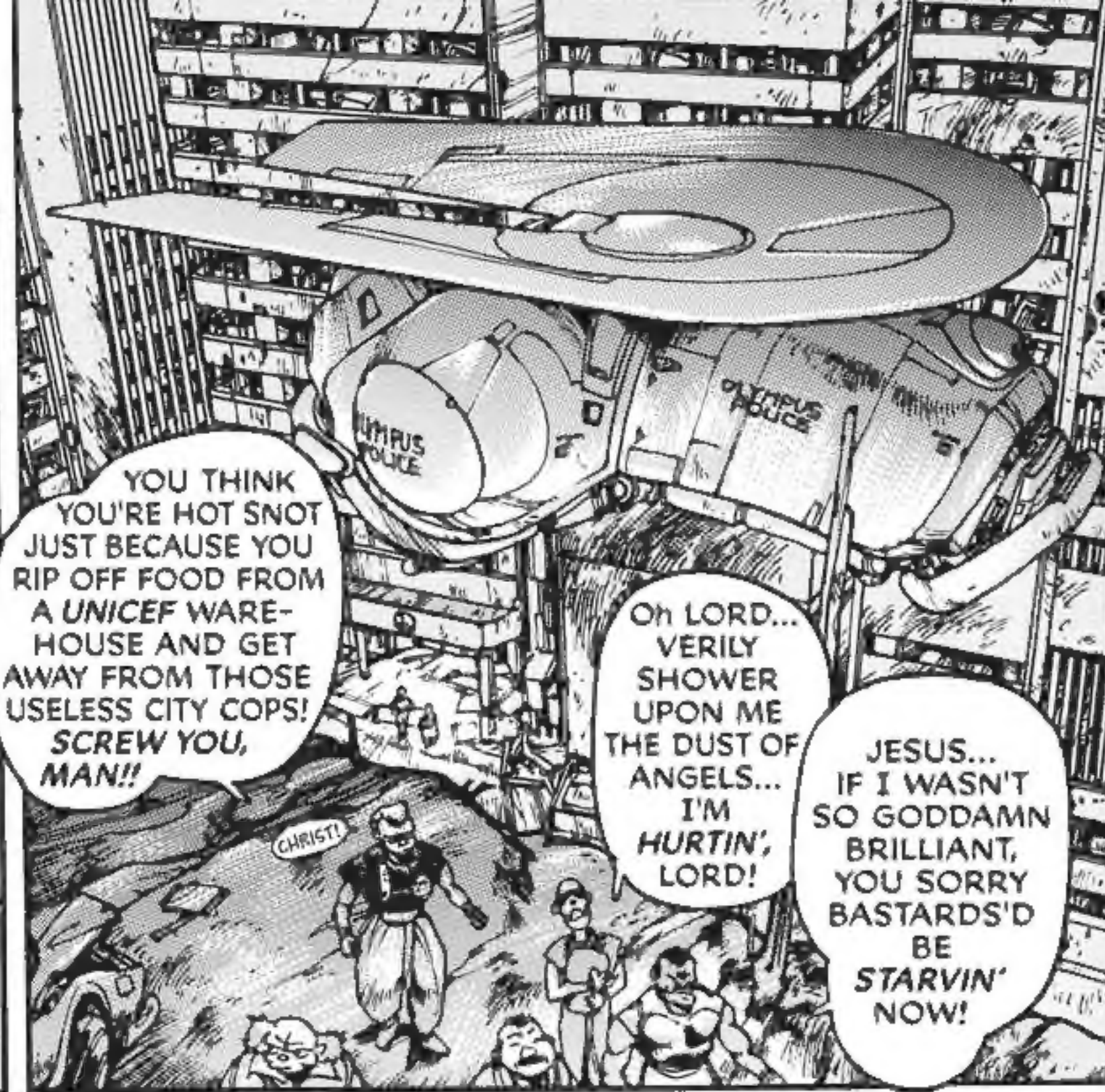
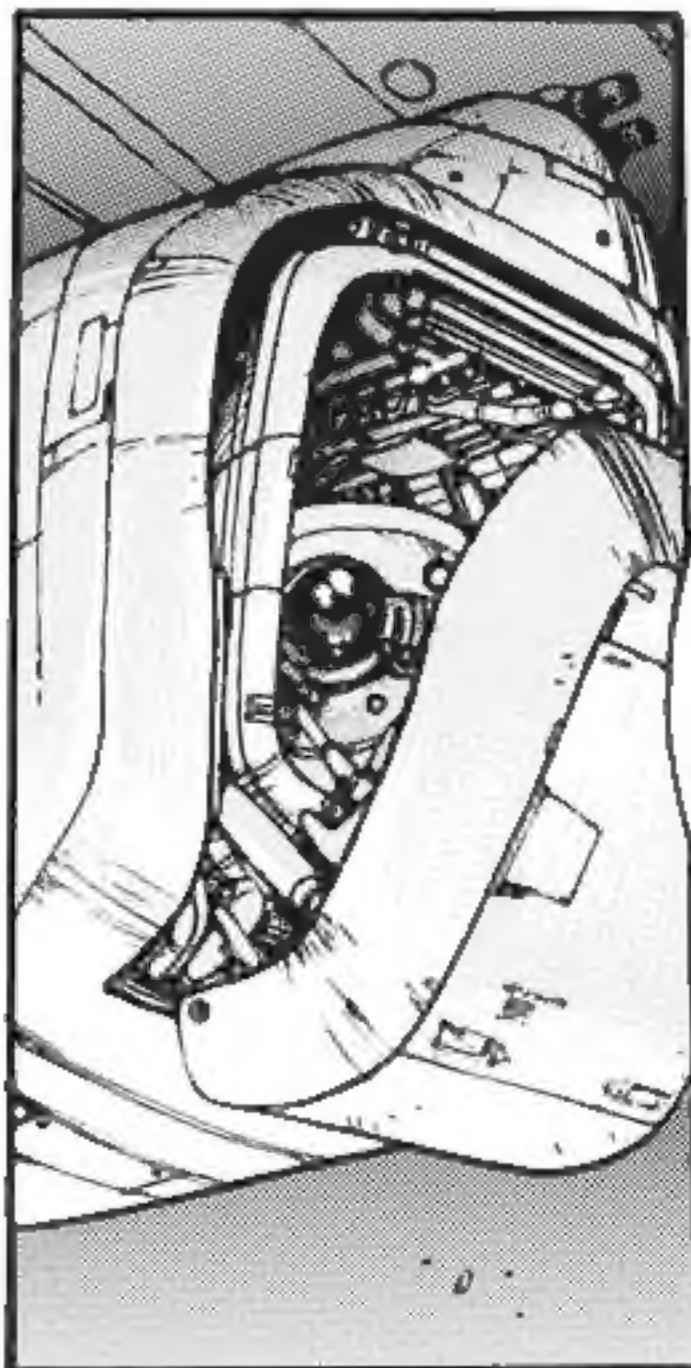


SO THIS  
IS THE  
BIG  
APPLE...





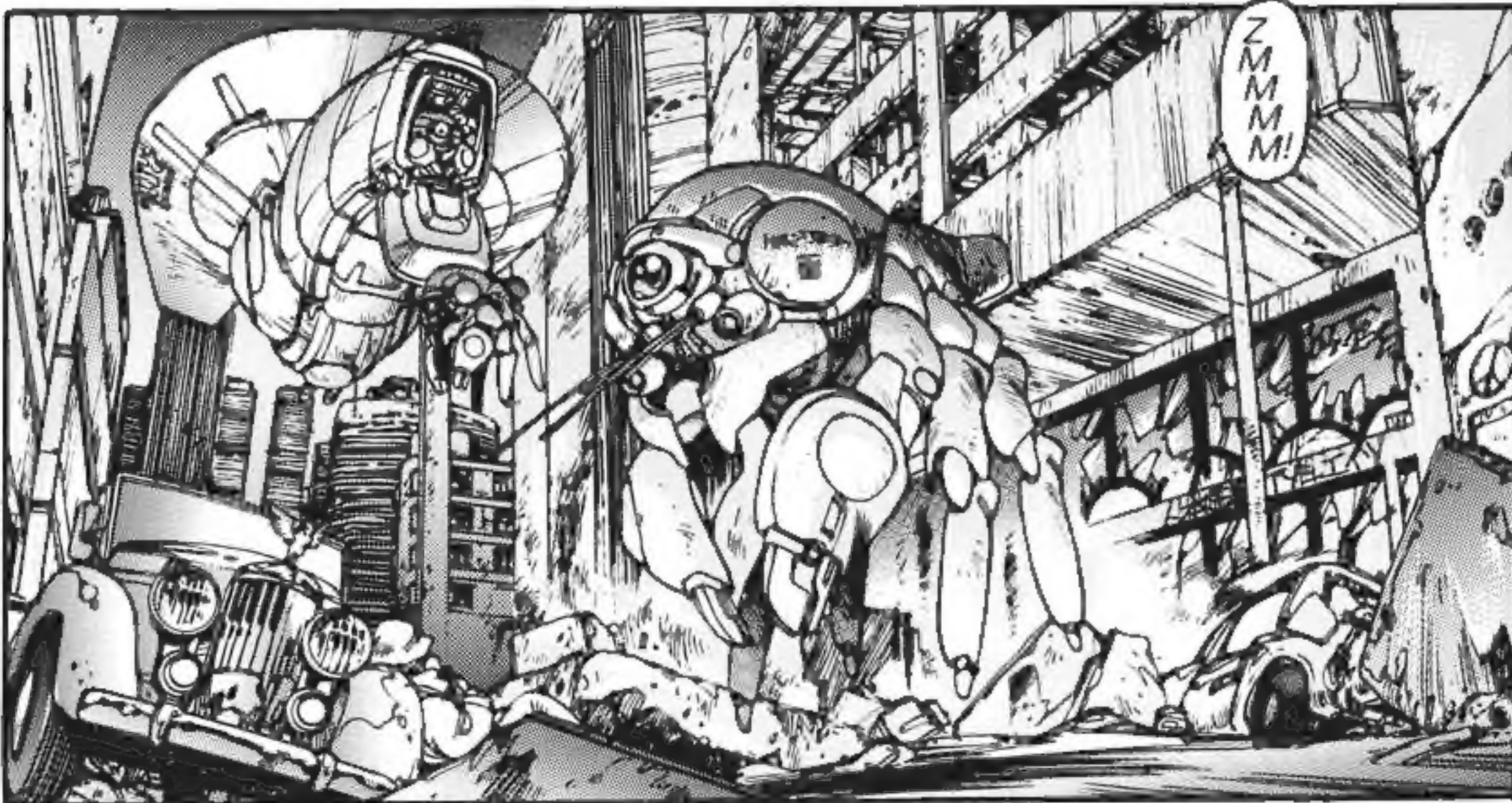




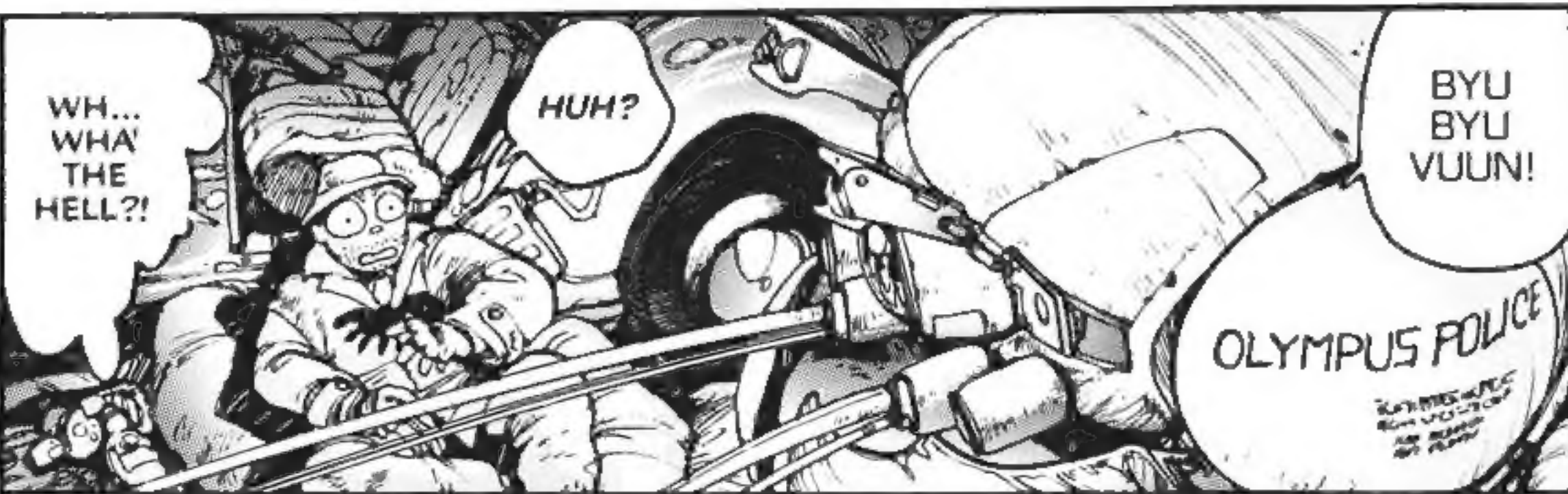
YOU THINK  
YOU'RE HOT SNOT  
JUST BECAUSE YOU  
RIP OFF FOOD FROM  
A UNICEF WARE-  
HOUSE AND GET  
AWAY FROM THOSE  
USELESS CITY COPS!  
SCREW YOU,  
MAN!!

Oh LORD...  
VERILY  
SHOWER  
UPON ME  
THE DUST OF  
ANGELS...  
I'M  
HURTIN',  
LORD!

JESUS...  
IF I WASN'T  
SO GODDAMN  
BRILLIANT,  
YOU SORRY  
BASTARDS'D  
BE  
STARVIN'  
NOW!



Z  
M  
M  
M  
M!



WH...  
WHA'  
THE  
HELL?!

HUH?

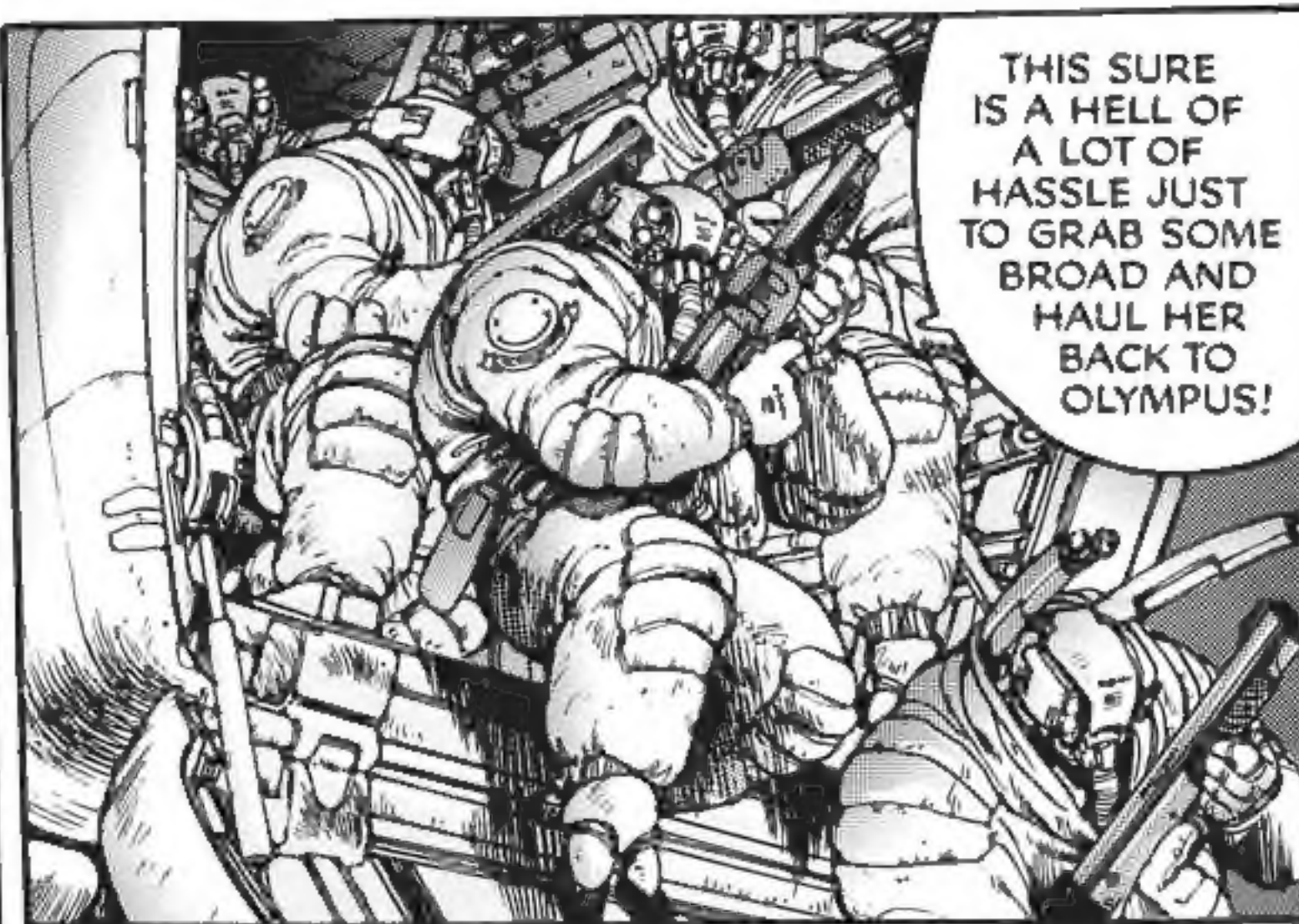
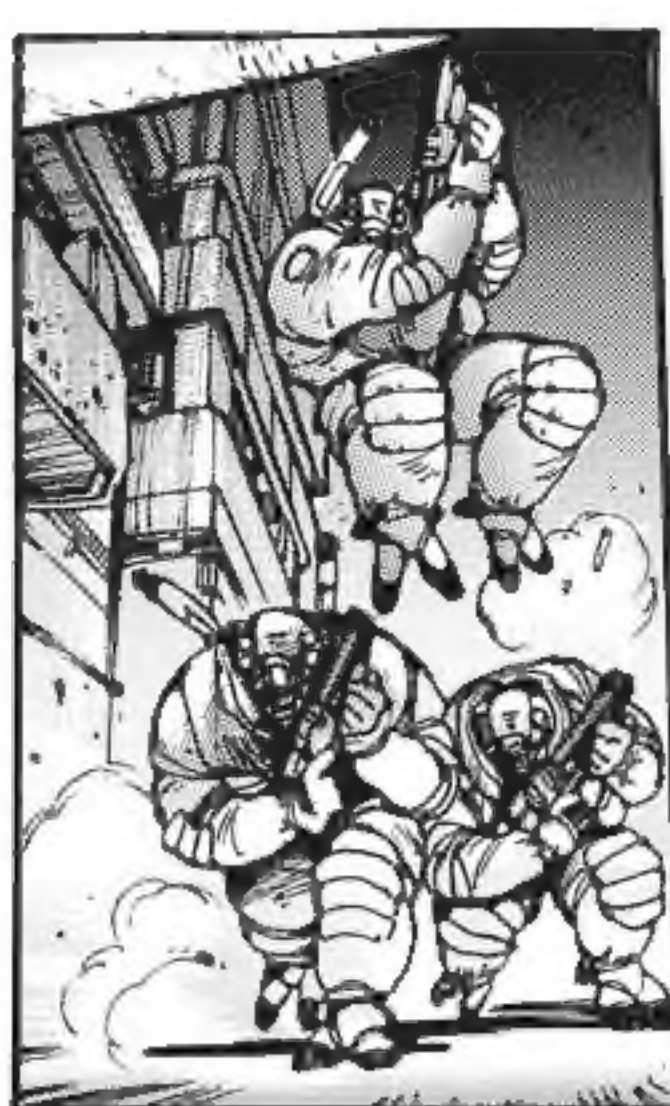
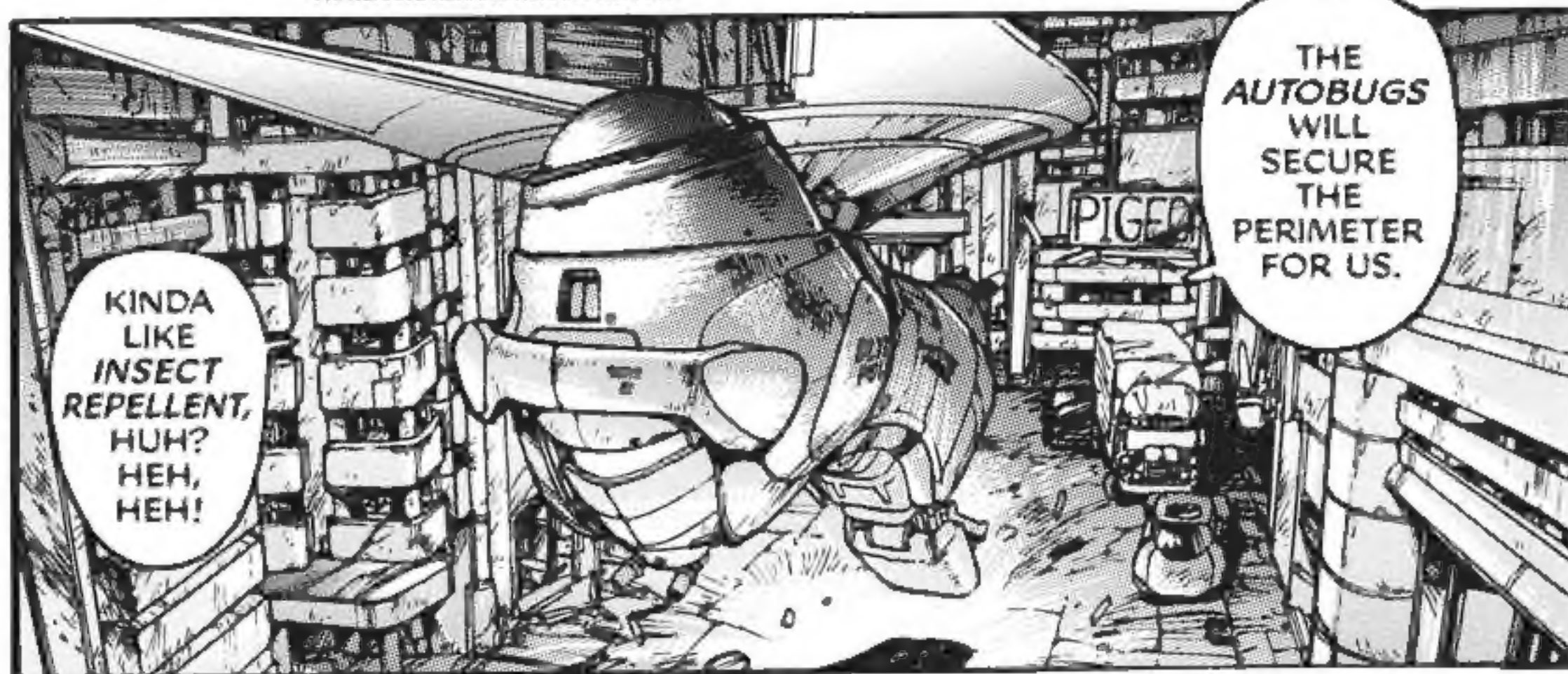
BYU  
BYU  
VUUN!

OLYMPUS POLICE

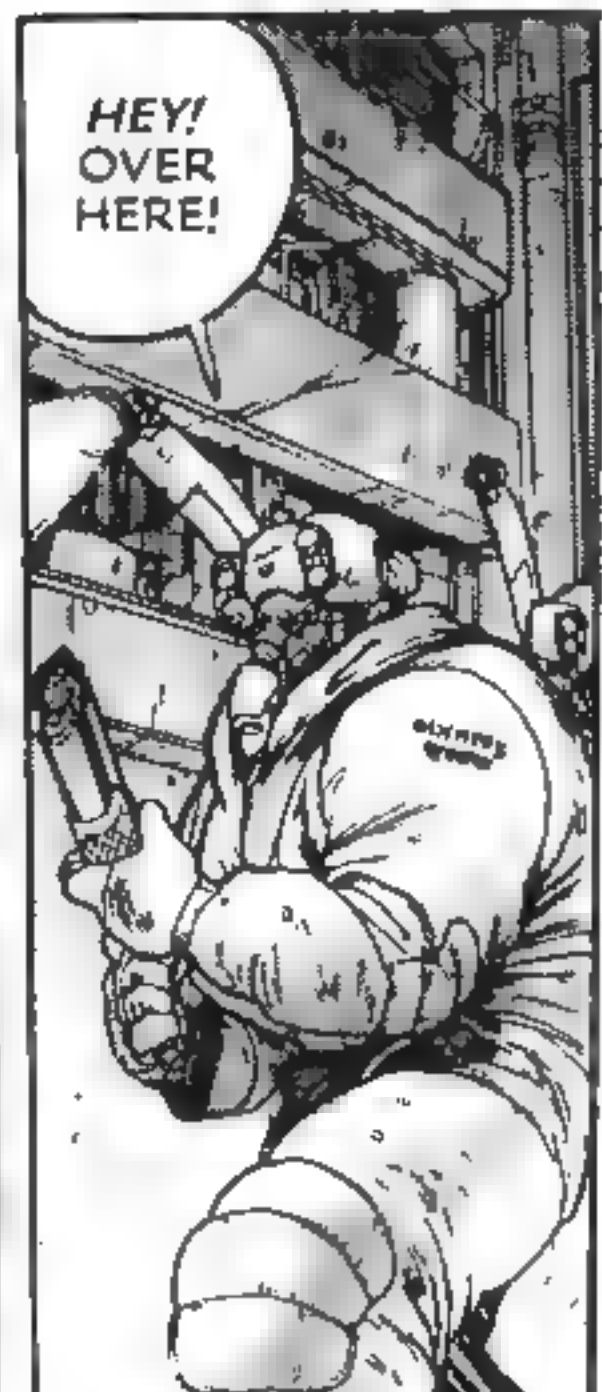
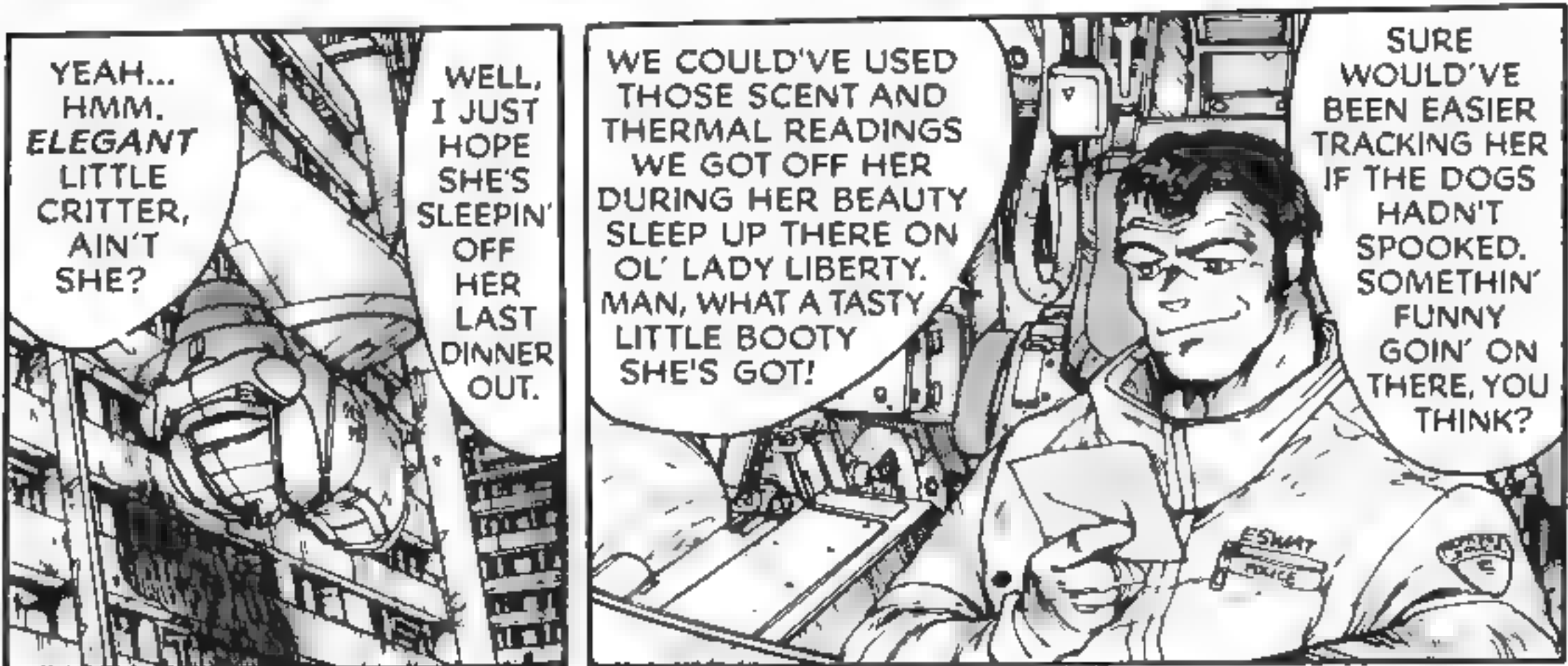




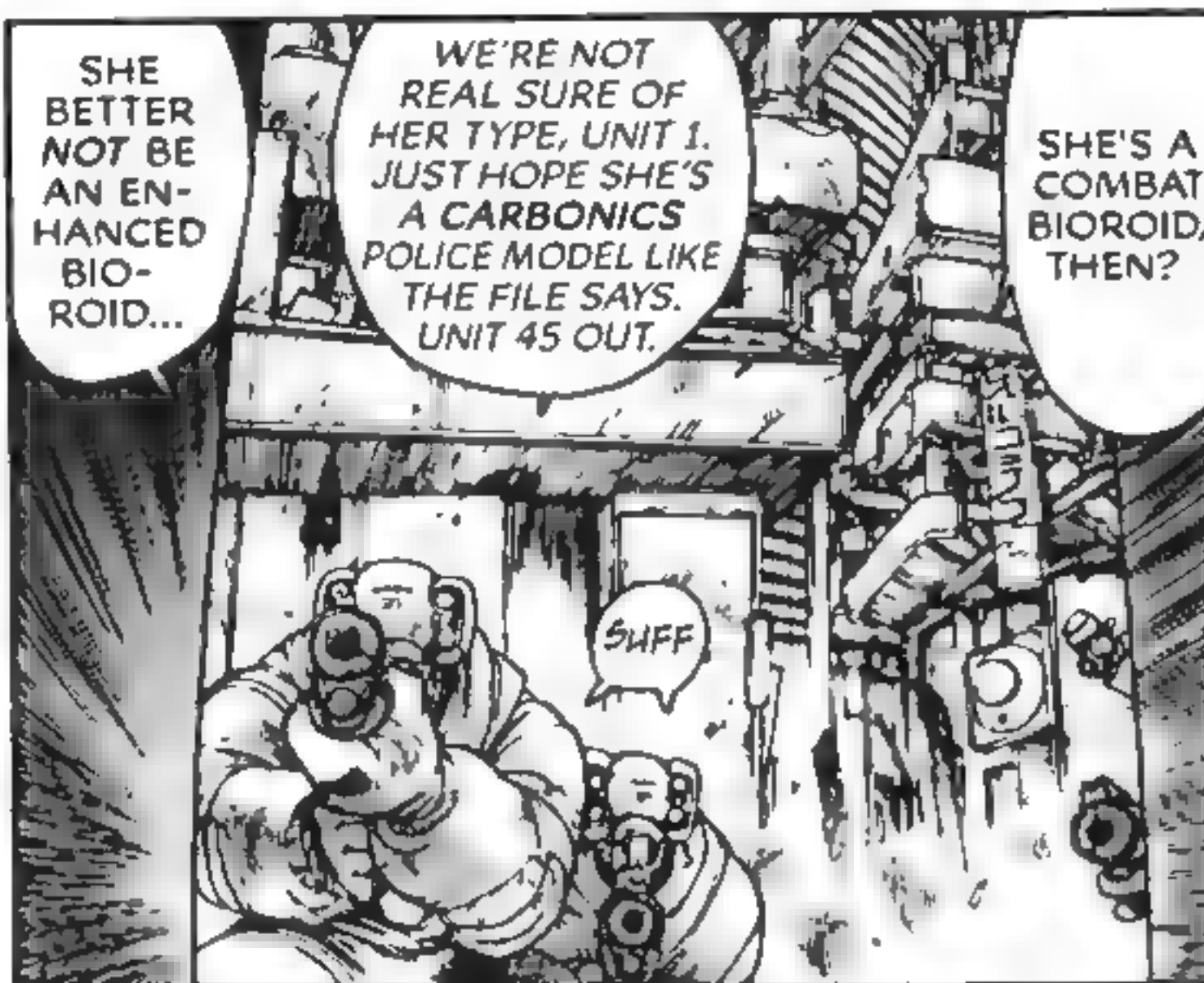
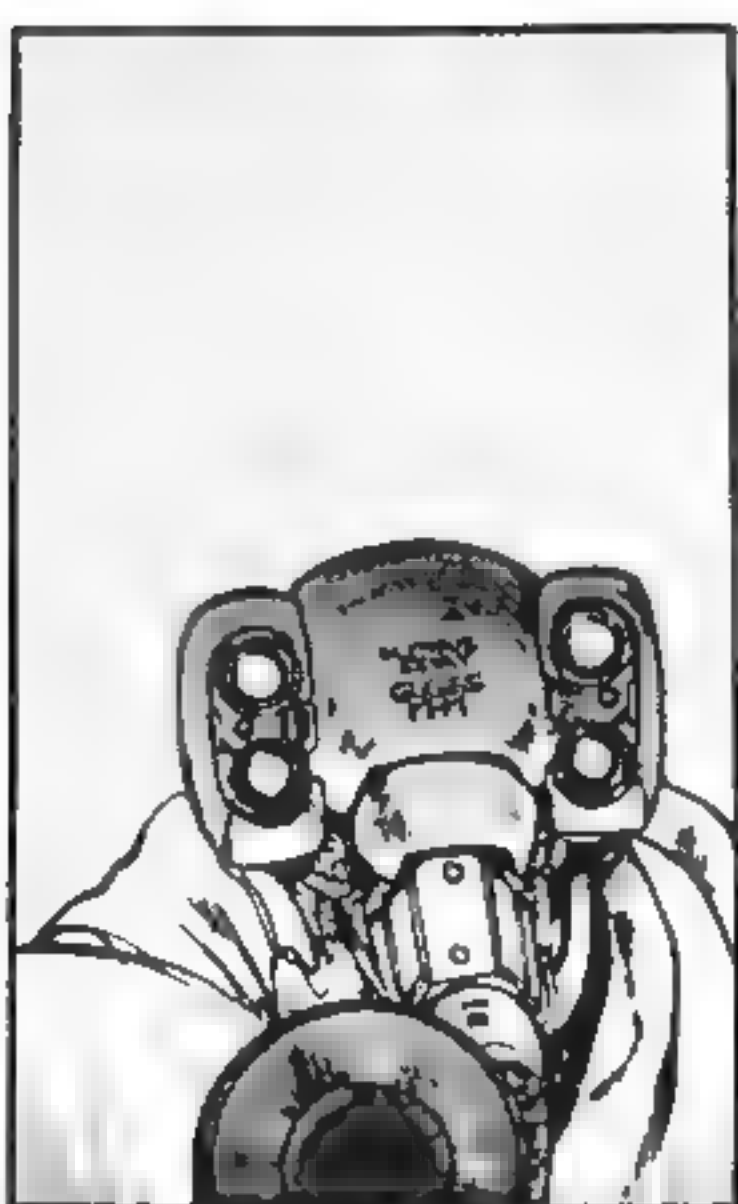
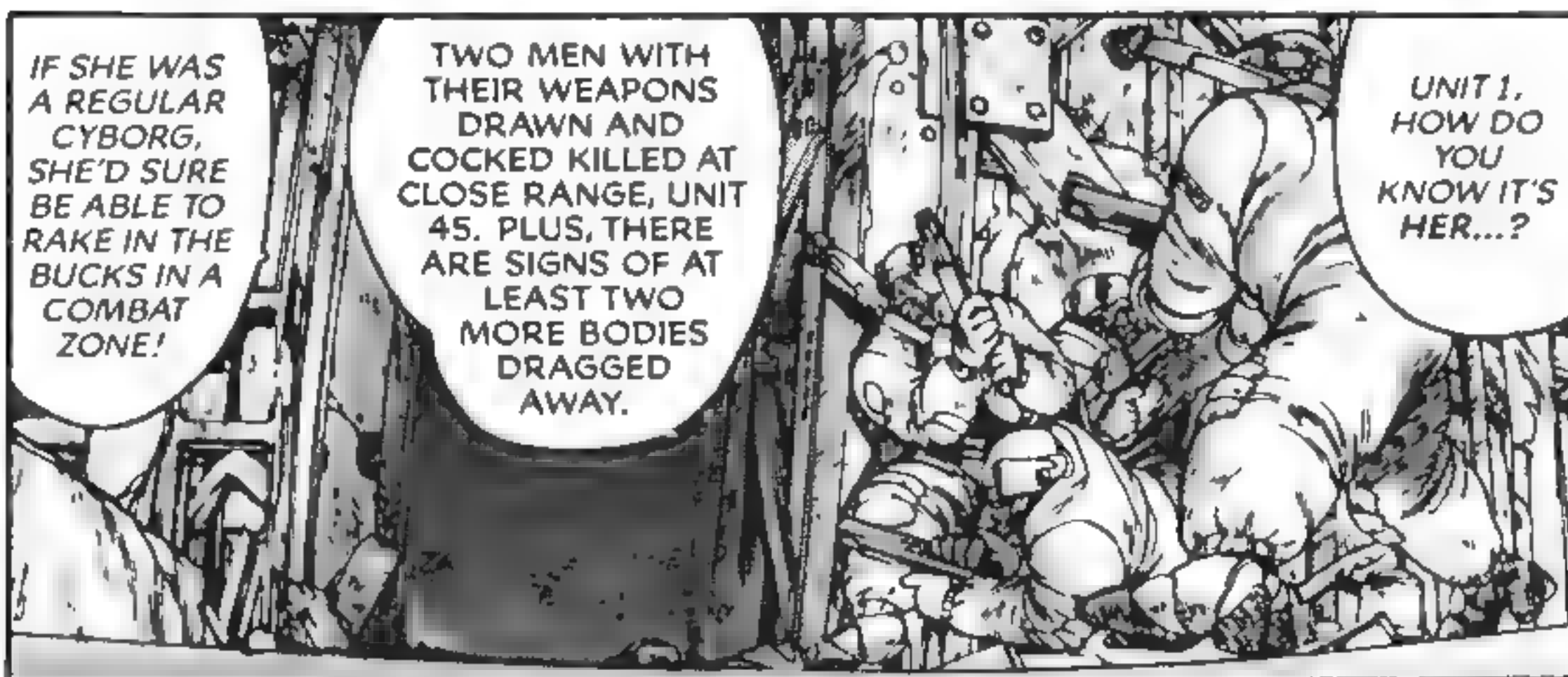
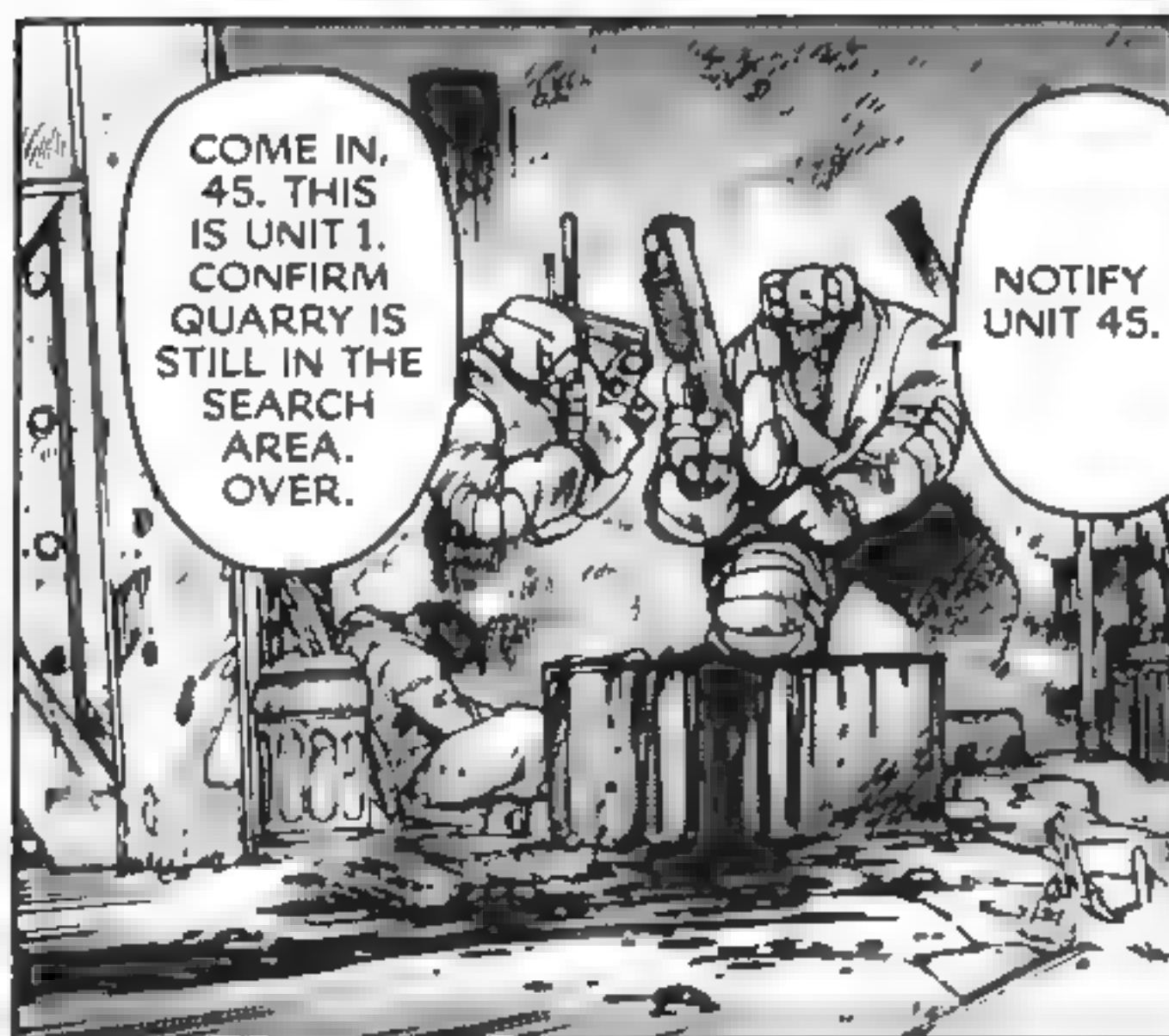
\*FX: KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG







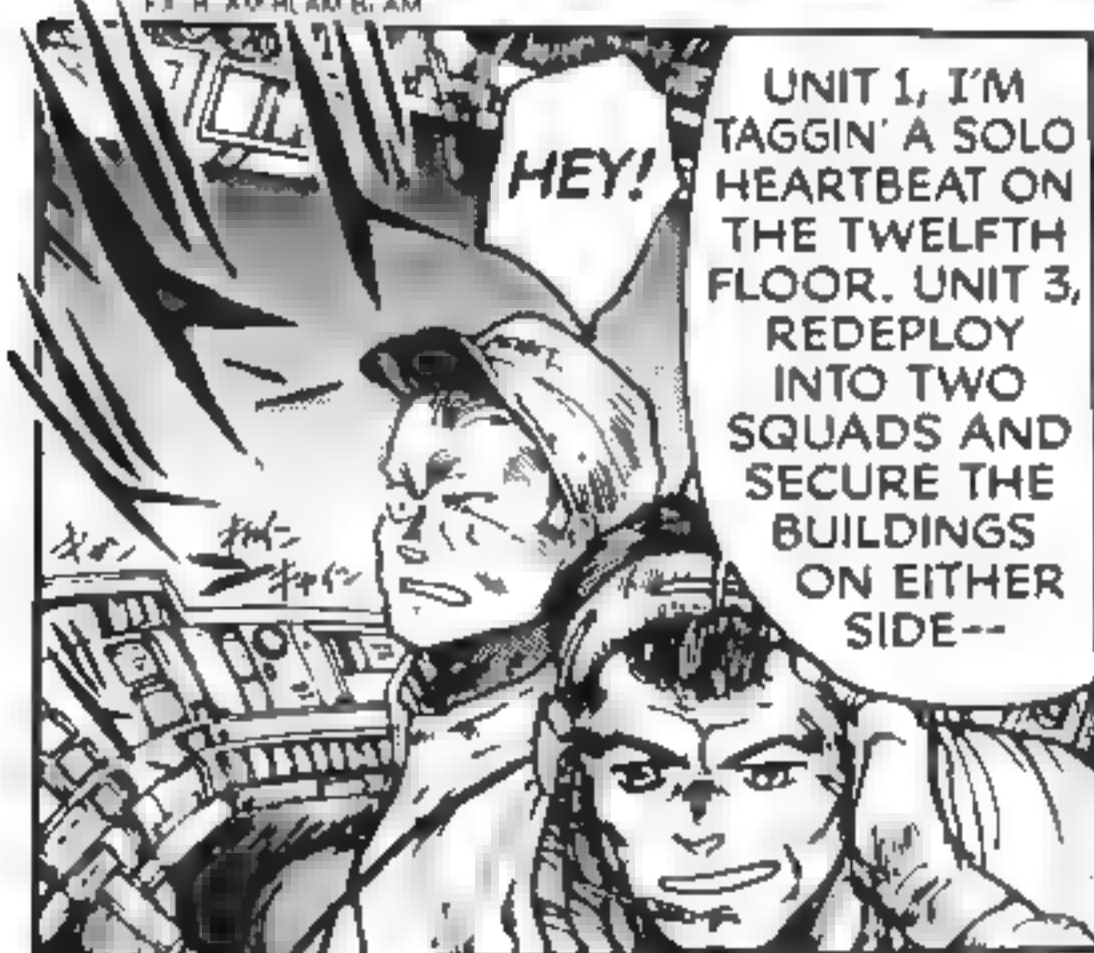








FX H AMPLAM B AM



FX YIPE YIPE YIPE

FX YIPE YIPE YIPE YIPE

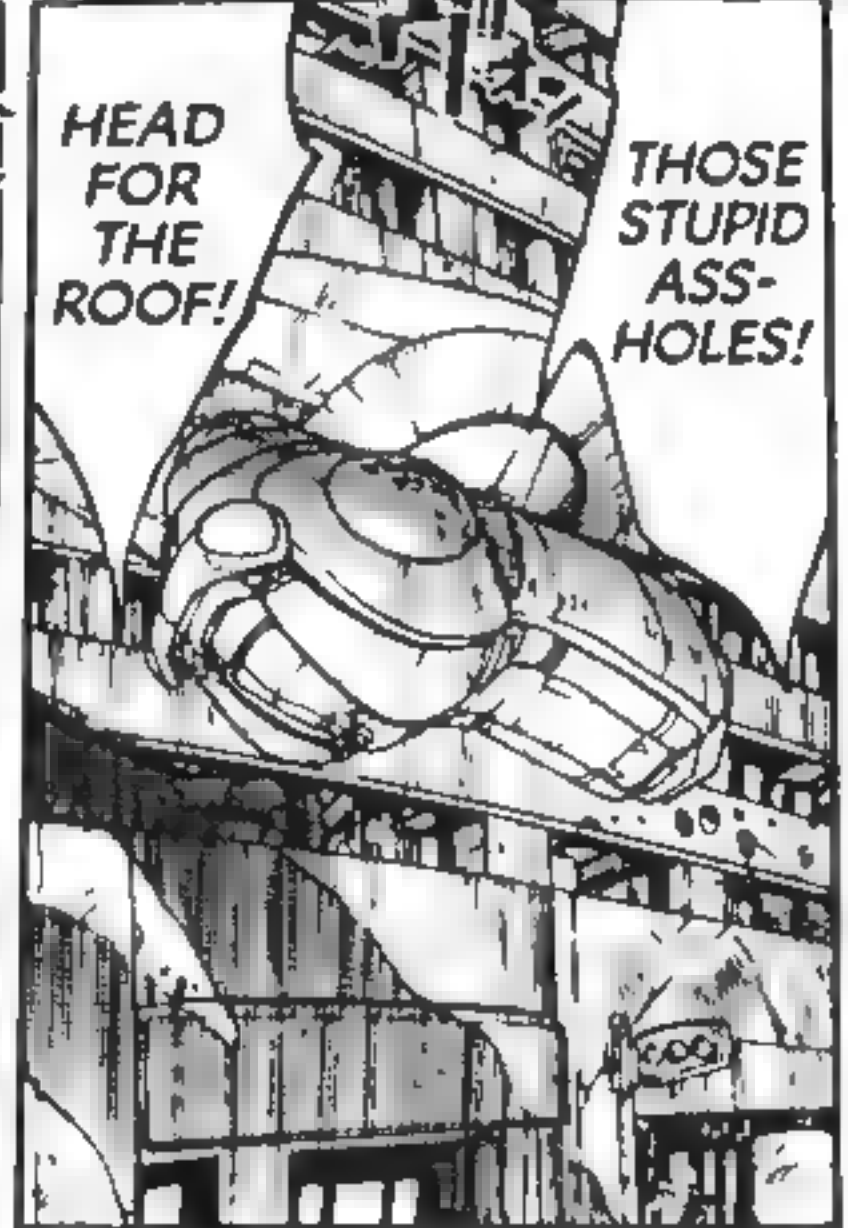
FX R AL B AL



FX VNN



OH, MAN...



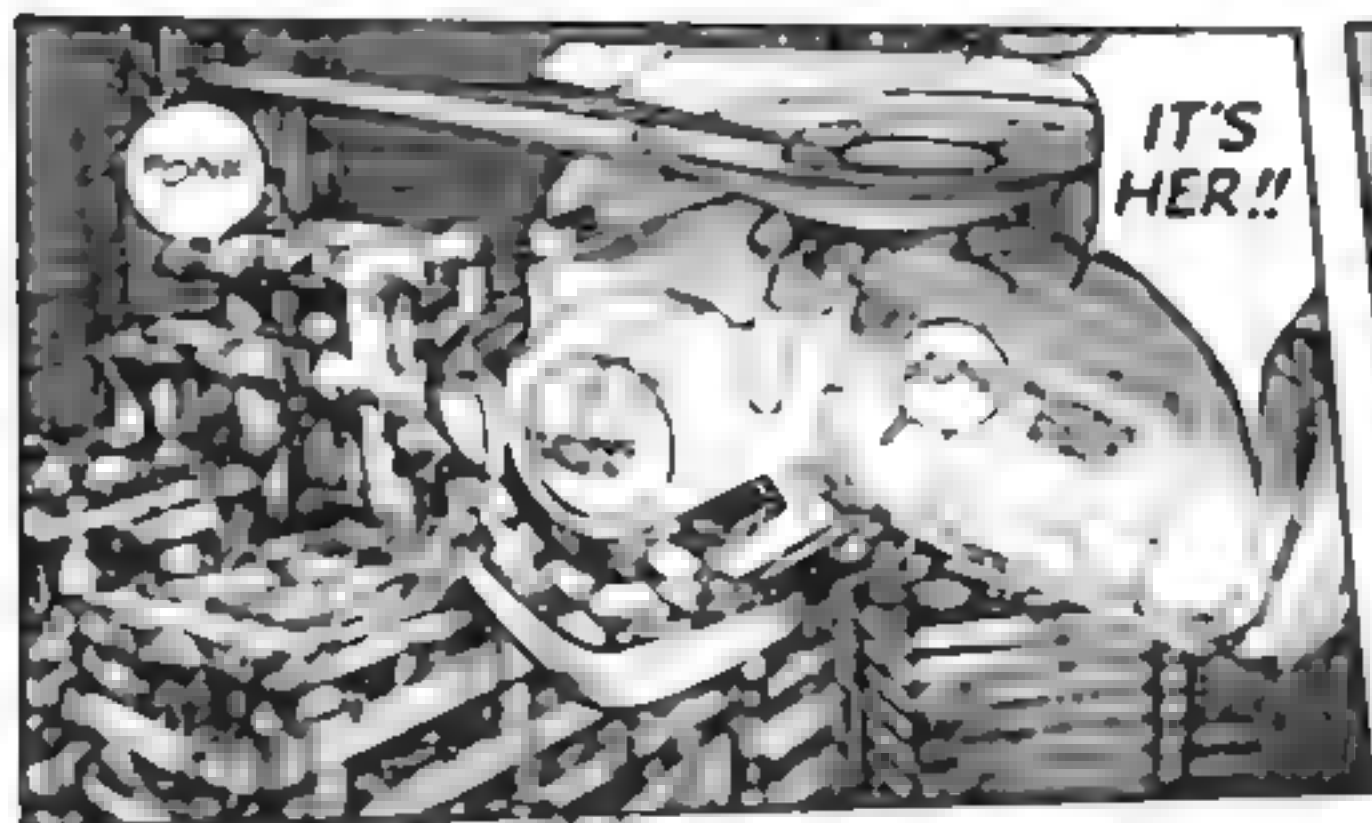
THOSE STUPID ASS-HOLES!





OH, FOR  
CHRIST'S  
SAKE  
HEY!  
YOU TWO  
STAY  
HERE  
WITH  
HIM!

HRRGK  
UCK

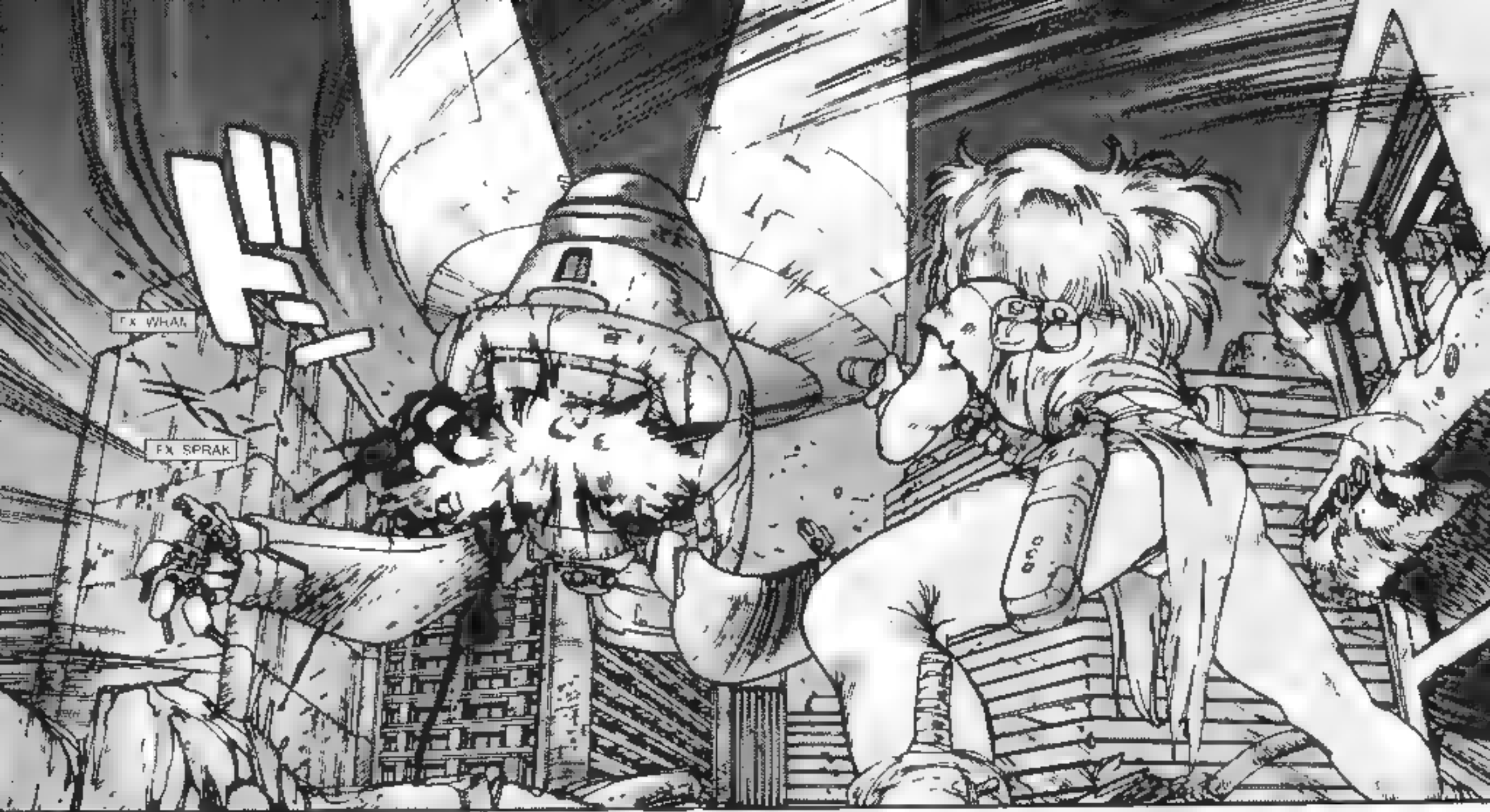


PONK

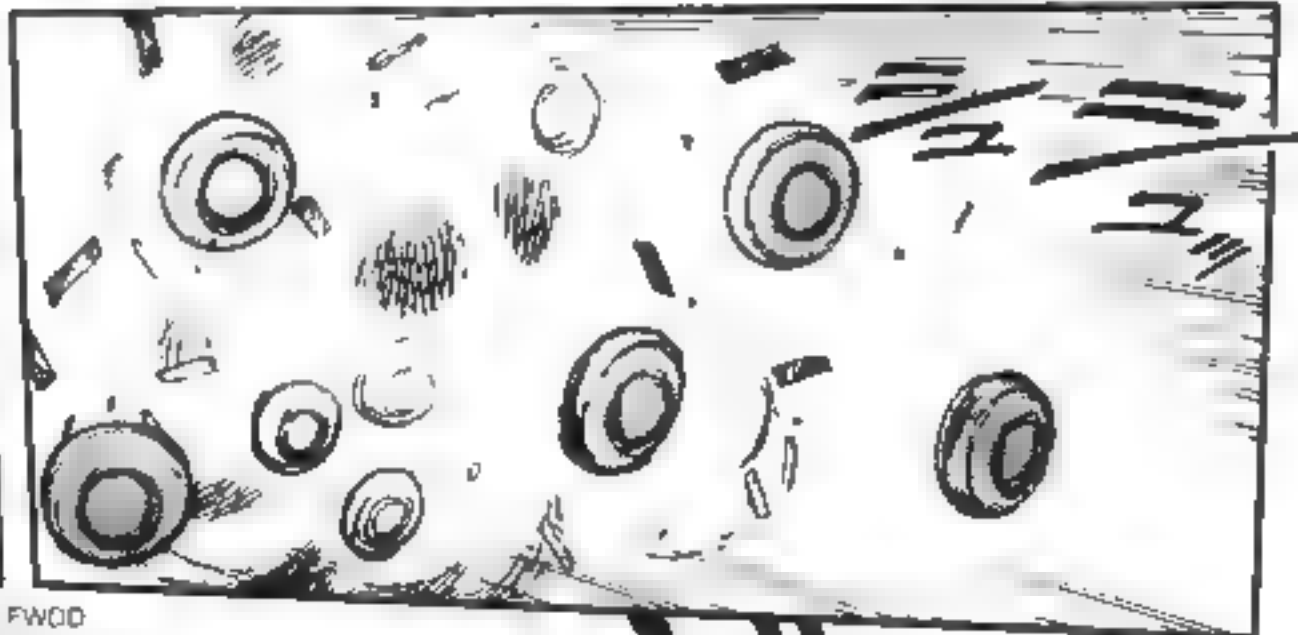
IT'S  
HER!!



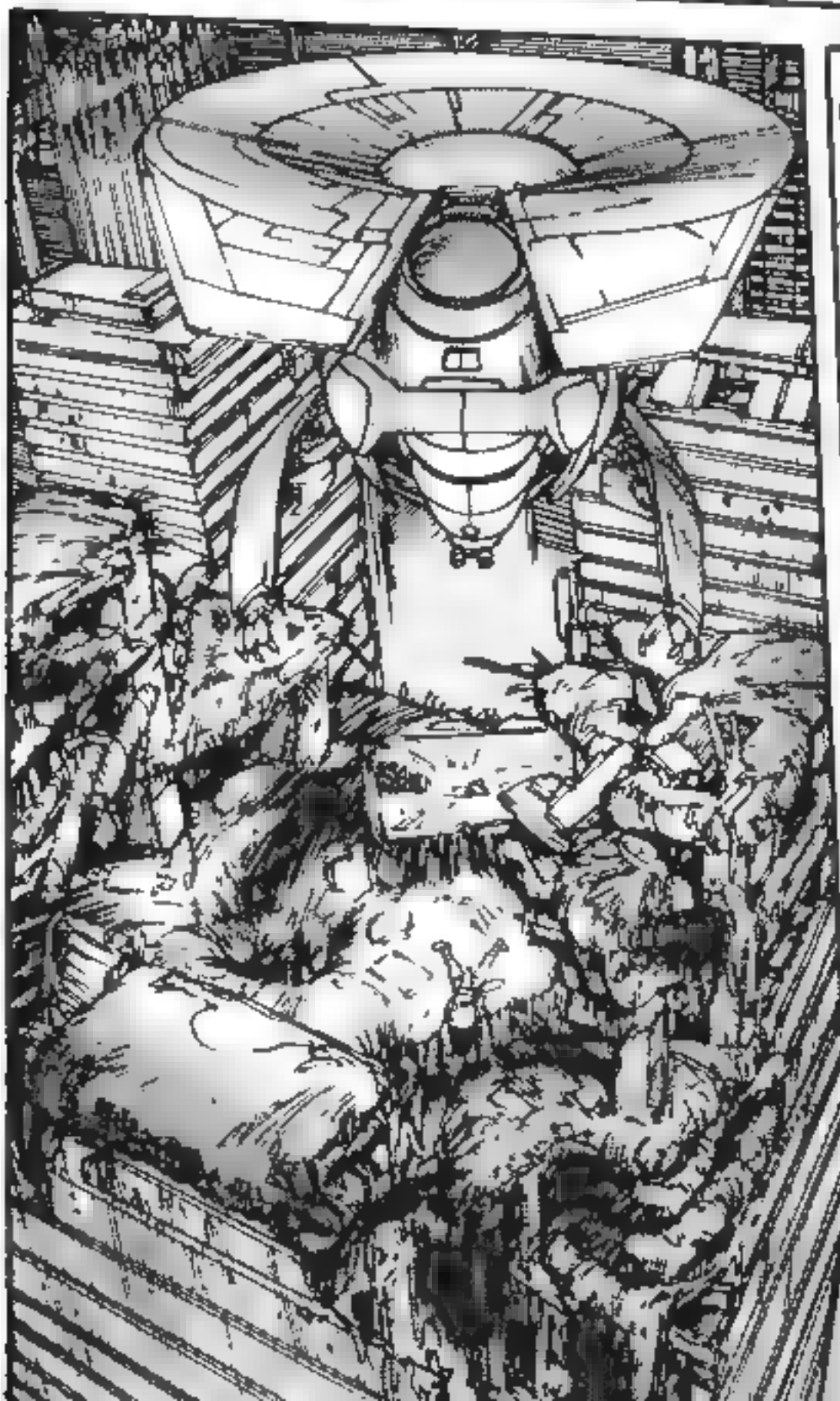




FX BOMP



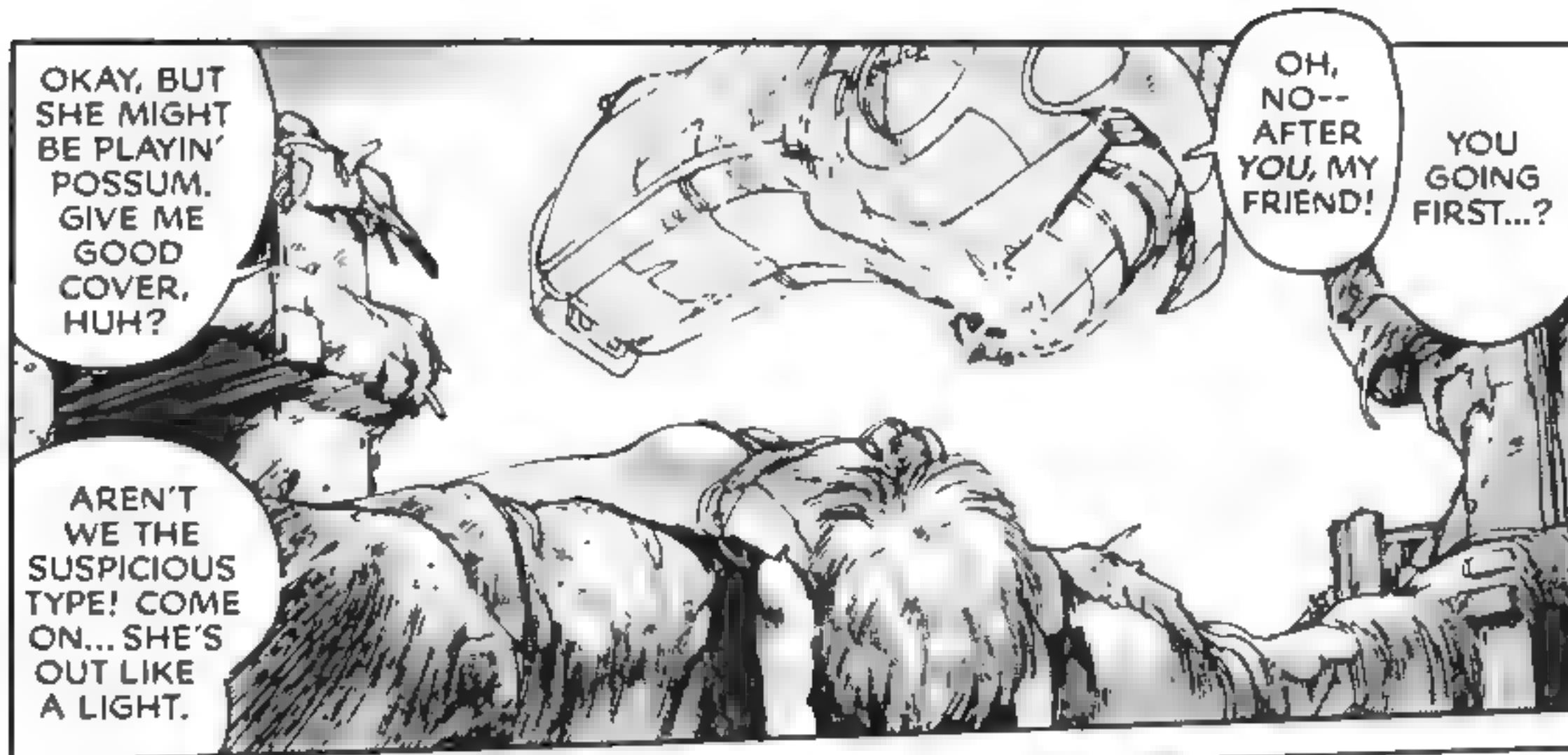
FX FWOD



FX WHOK







OKAY, BUT SHE MIGHT BE PLAYIN' POSSUM. GIVE ME GOOD COVER, HUH?

OH, NO-- AFTER YOU, MY FRIEND!

YOU GOING FIRST...?

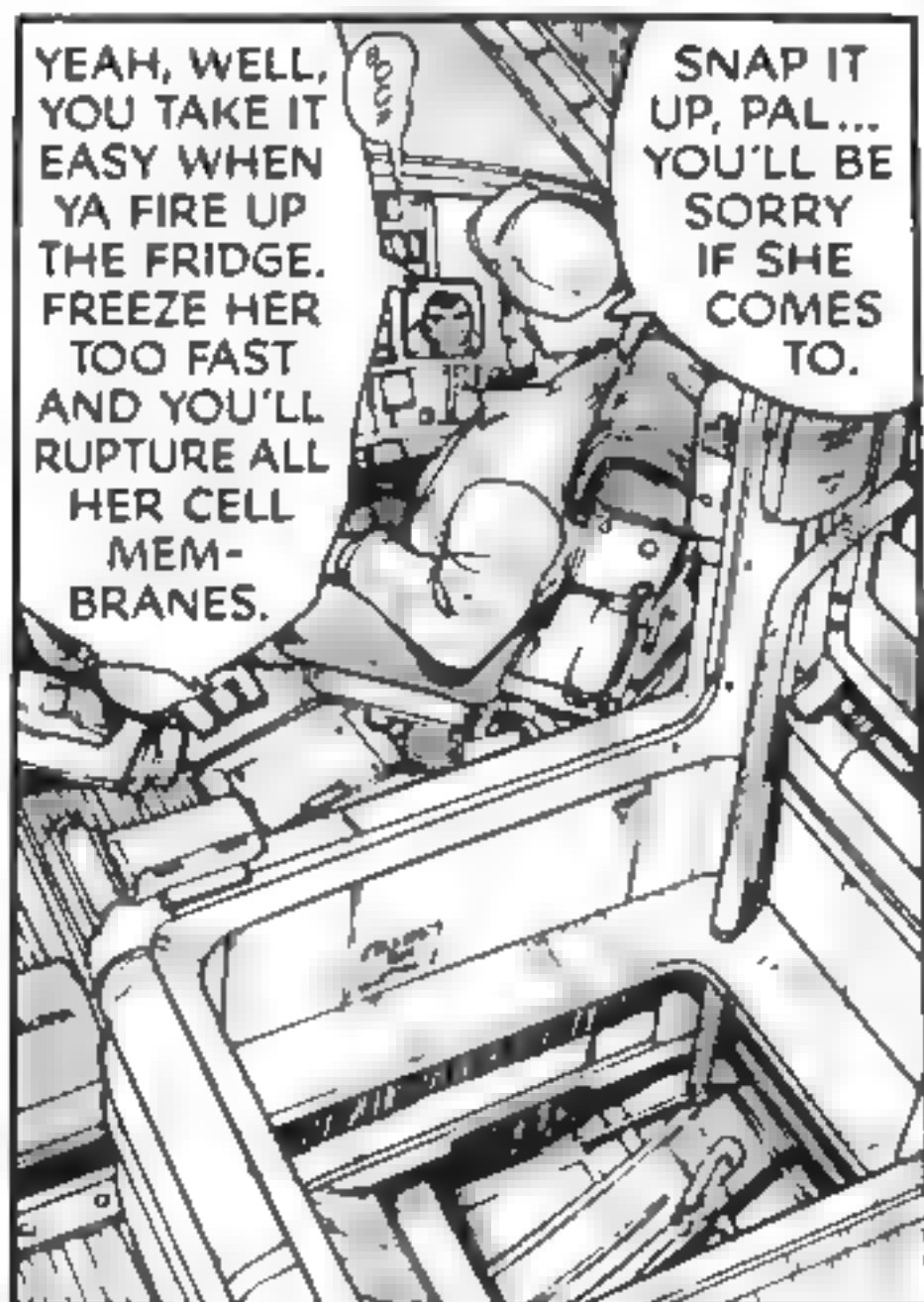
AREN'T WE THE SUSPICIOUS TYPE! COME ON... SHE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT.



YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THAT... ANYWAY, GOT TO BE GOOD ARMOR, OR WE'D BE WELL-DONE AND STILL SIZZLING.



HUH... THIS BUGGY'S "MADE IN JAPAN" ALL RIGHT-- NOT A SCRATCH! SAY... ISN'T JAPAN CALLED "POSEIDON" NOWA-DAYS?



YEAH, WELL, YOU TAKE IT EASY WHEN YA FIRE UP THE FRIDGE. FREEZE HER TOO FAST AND YOU'LL RUPTURE ALL HER CELL MEMBRANES.

SNAP IT UP, PAL... YOU'LL BE SORRY IF SHE COMES TO.



HEY, HEY, CHECK IT OUT! THIS BABY MAY BE AN ORIGINAL!



WELL, NOW, LITTLE HONEY, YOU READY FOR ANOTHER SNOOZE IN CRYOGENIC HIBERNATION?

PSST





JEEZ, YOU  
NEED A  
VACATION,  
MAN. BET IT  
WOULDN'T BE  
SO FUNNY IF  
YOU SAW  
HER DOING  
IT.

HEH, HEH...  
A BIOROID  
LIVIN' ON  
HUMAN MEAT.  
KINDA MAKES  
SENSE WHEN  
YA THINK  
ABOUT IT,  
HUH?

\*FX BEEP



YEAH, YEAH...  
YOU SAWED OFF HIS  
ARMS AND LEGS,  
HMM? THEN COOKED  
HIM UP BIT  
BY BIT.

BEEP

SAY, I EVER  
TELL YA HOW  
WE ATE ONE A'  
THE GUYS IN  
OUR UNIT  
DURIN' THAT  
BREW-UP IN  
BRAZIL?

I TELL YA, THERE  
WAS BLOOD  
EVERYWHERE

4!



YOU  
SURE ARE  
HEAVY FOR  
SUCH A LITTLE  
THING!



AND  
HERE I  
THOUGHT  
YOU BRITS  
WERE  
DOG  
LOVERS...  
HAH!

T-TERRIBLY  
SORRY,  
SIR!

GUN PLATFORM  
4 WILL BE  
COVERIN' US  
ANYWAY. AFTER  
ALL, WE GOT A  
REAL V.I.P. ON  
BOARD--HEY  
YOU! YOU THE  
MORON WITH  
THE TRIGGER  
FINGER?!



A KGB/FBI  
JOINT OP?  
THIS I'VE  
GOTTA SEE.  
BET IT  
WON'T  
SCARE OFF  
THE  
IMPERIAL  
AMERICANA  
CIA,  
THOUGH.

ALL RIGHT!  
THE  
FEDERATED  
U.S.S.R. SAYS  
THEY'LL GIVE  
US AN  
ESCORT TO  
THE 70th  
PARALLEL.



WE'LL BE  
DEBRIEFIN'  
YOU GUYS  
BACK IN  
OLYMPUS.

OKAY...WE  
PICK UP  
THE  
AUTOBUGS,  
THEN HEAD  
FOR THE  
PORT.

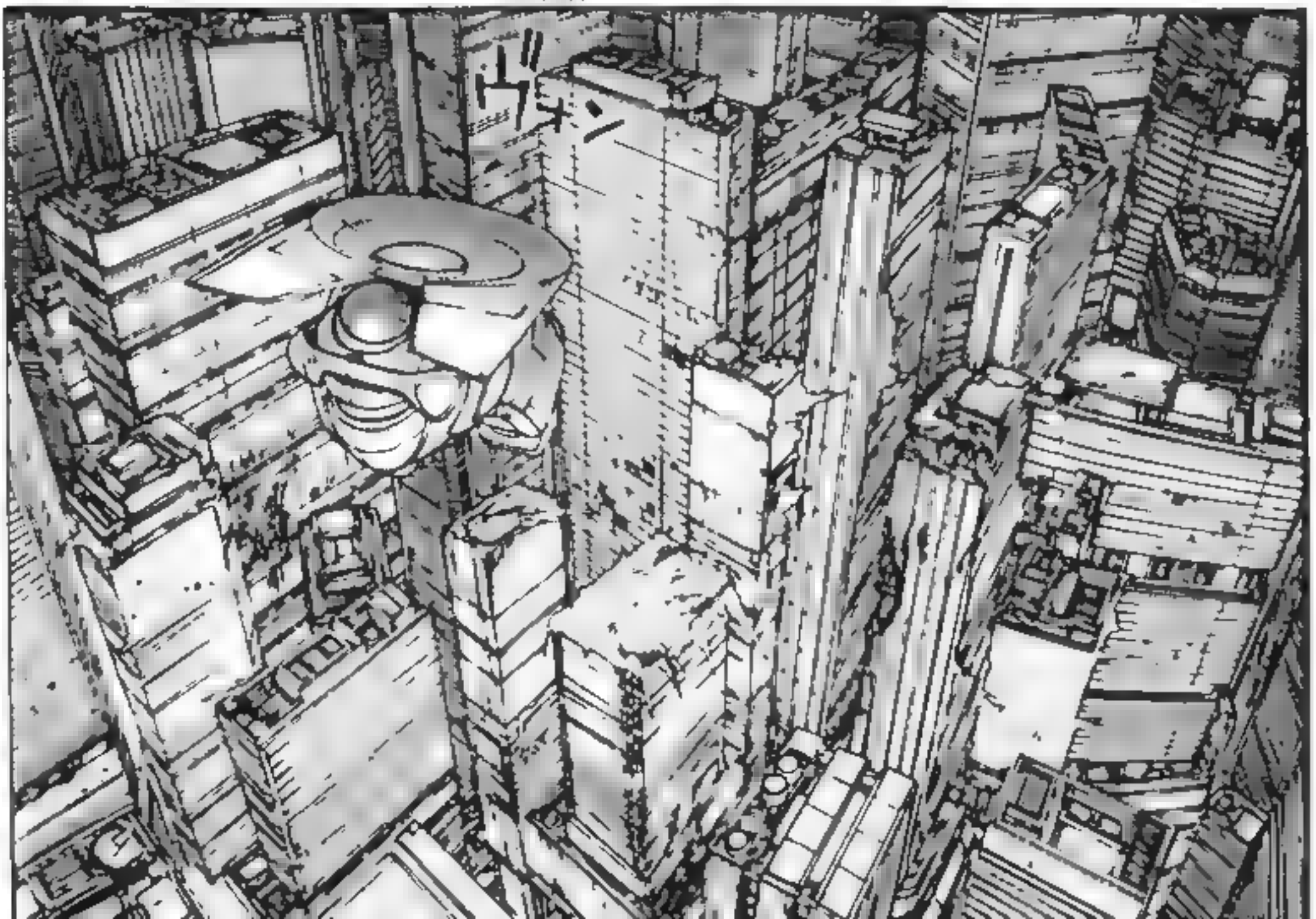




FA B E B C P



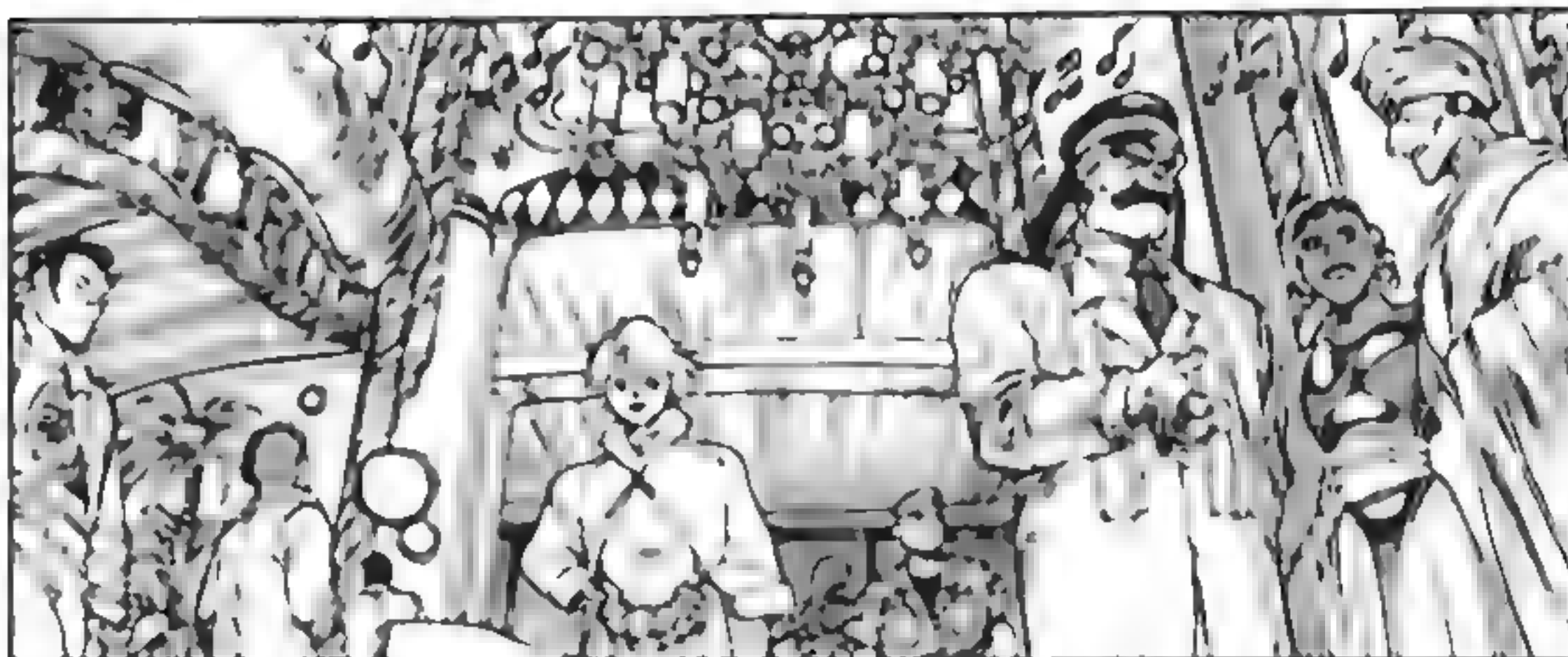
'FX VSSST



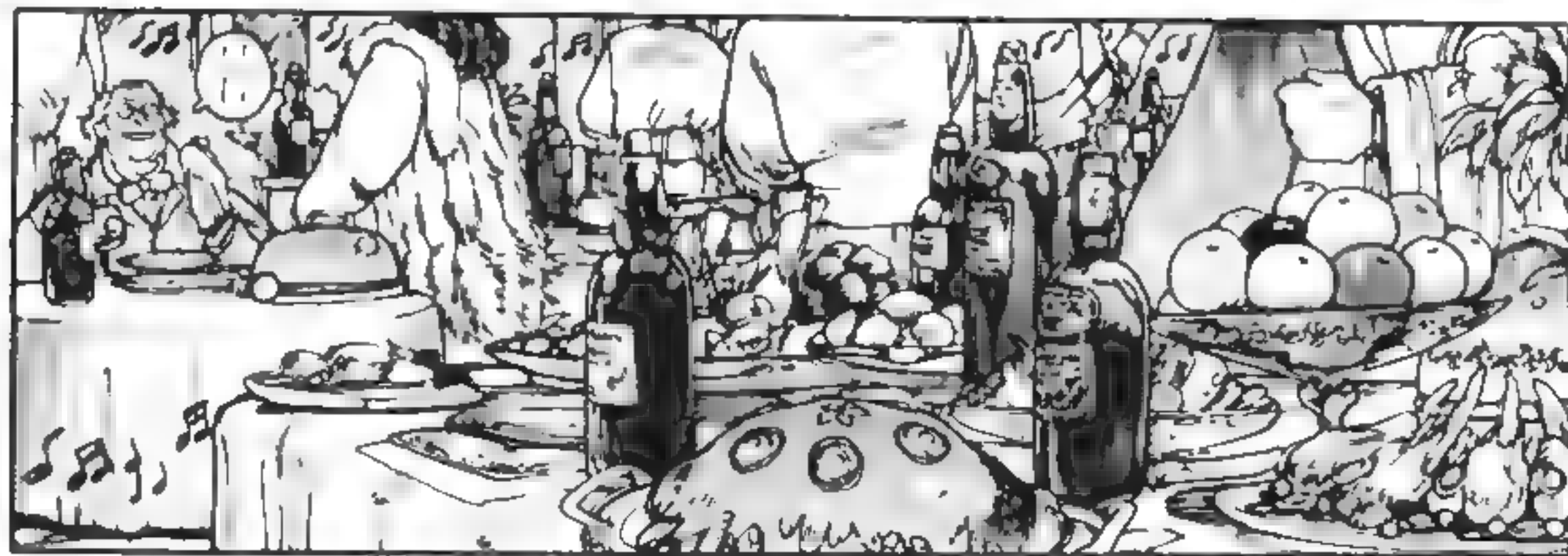
















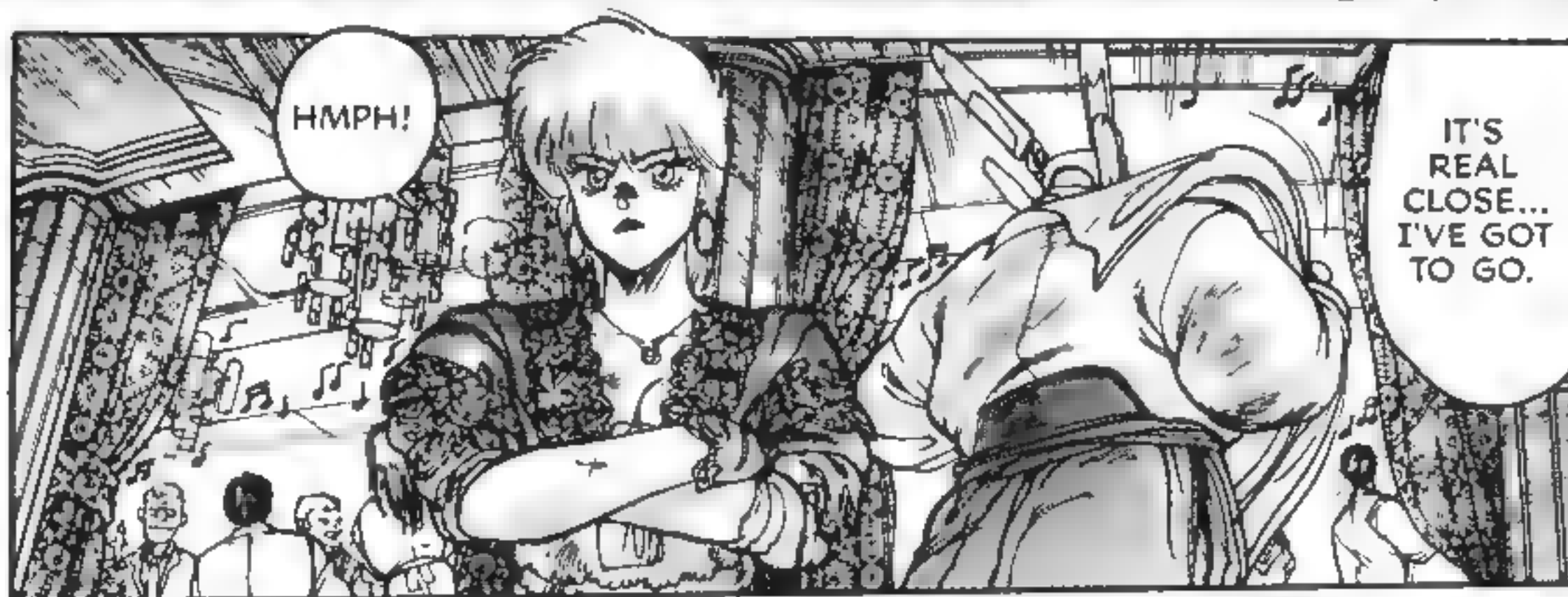




IT'S A MAYDAY...



THERE HE GOES AGAIN, HEARING VOICES....!



HMPH!

IT'S REAL CLOSE... I'VE GOT TO GO.



THE NAME'S BRIAREOS-- BRIAREOS HECATONCHIRES. HAVE MY COAT AND BAGS BROUGHT TO THE LOBBY.

YES, SIR.

IT'S IN THE CYBORG ASSOCIATION CODE. I HAVE TO RESPOND TO SIGNALS LIKE THAT ONE. DIDN'T I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME THAT GUY USED IT TO TRAP ME? NEARLY BOUGHT IT THAT TIME...



HOW COME YOU ALWAYS PAY ATTENTION TO THEM? WHY NOT PAY ATTENTION TO ME?!



OH, WOW! YOU GOTTA GO AL-READY?

PLISH

HERE'S YOUR JEWELRY BACK, HITOMI!





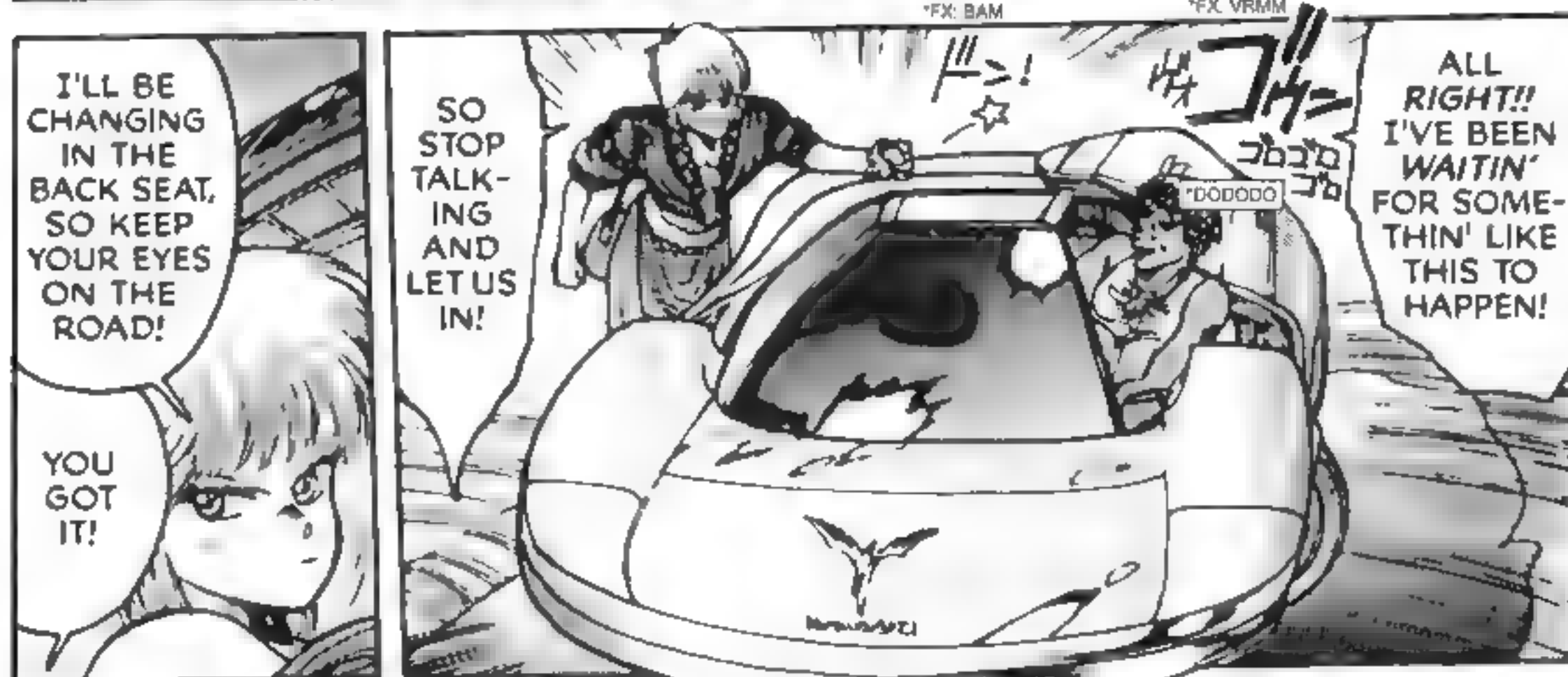
\*FX KNCH \*FX MMMMMM \*FX GULP



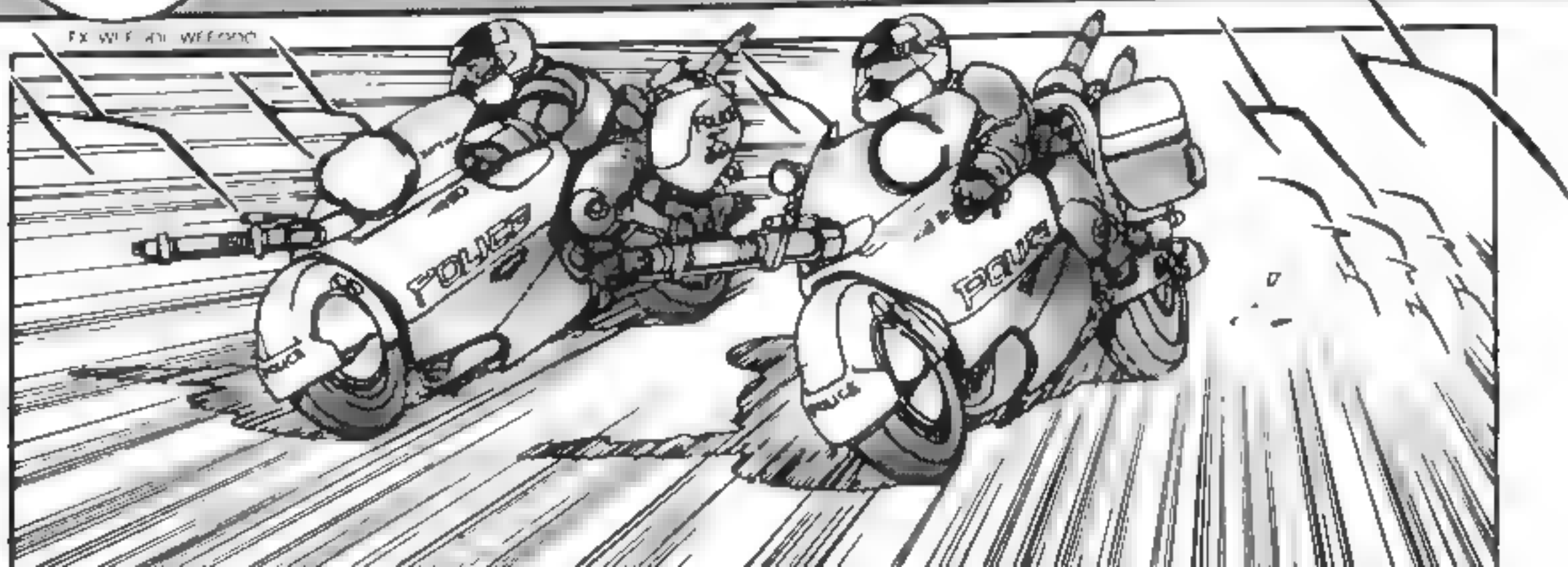
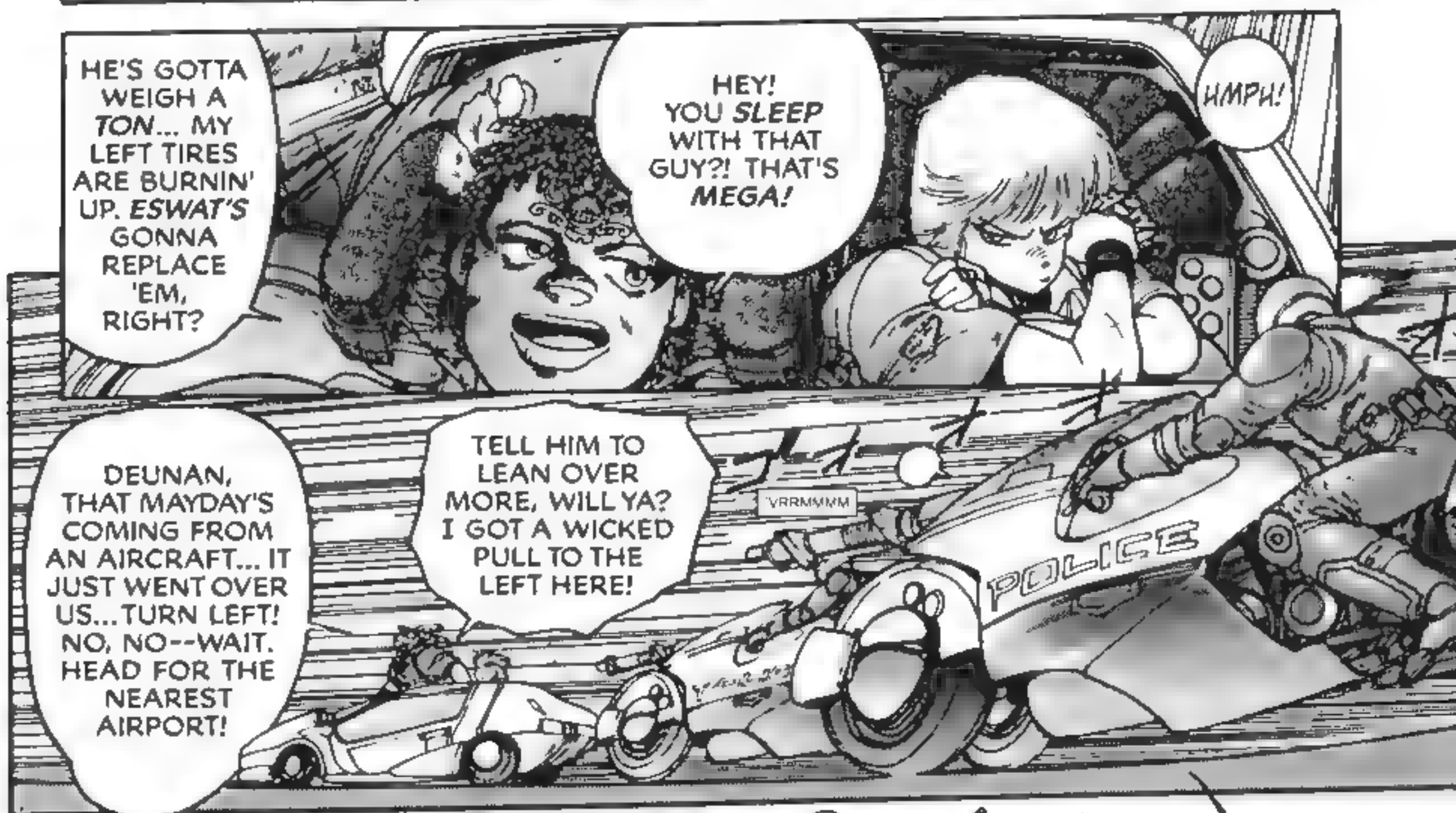
\*FX TAK TAK TAK \*FX SUN



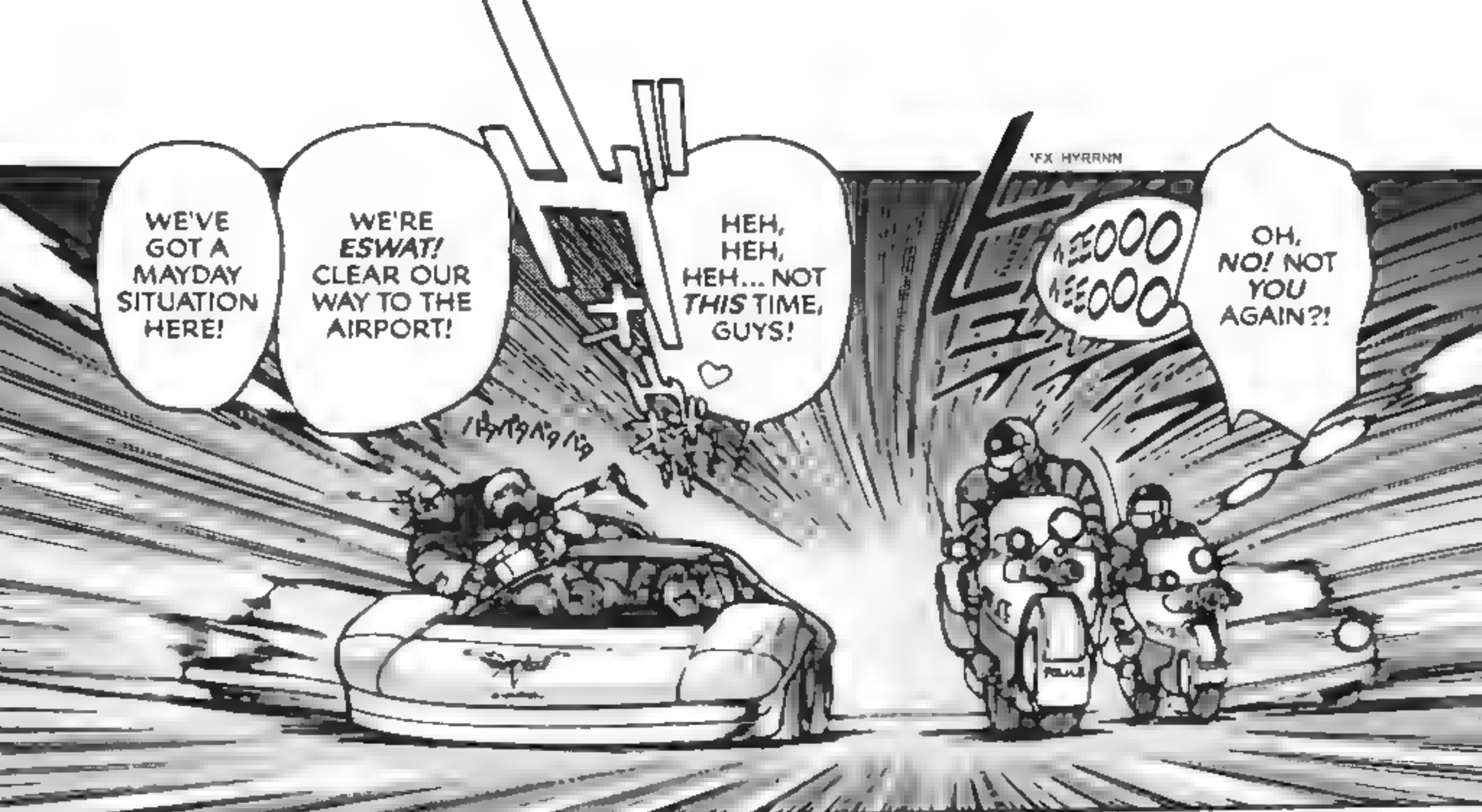








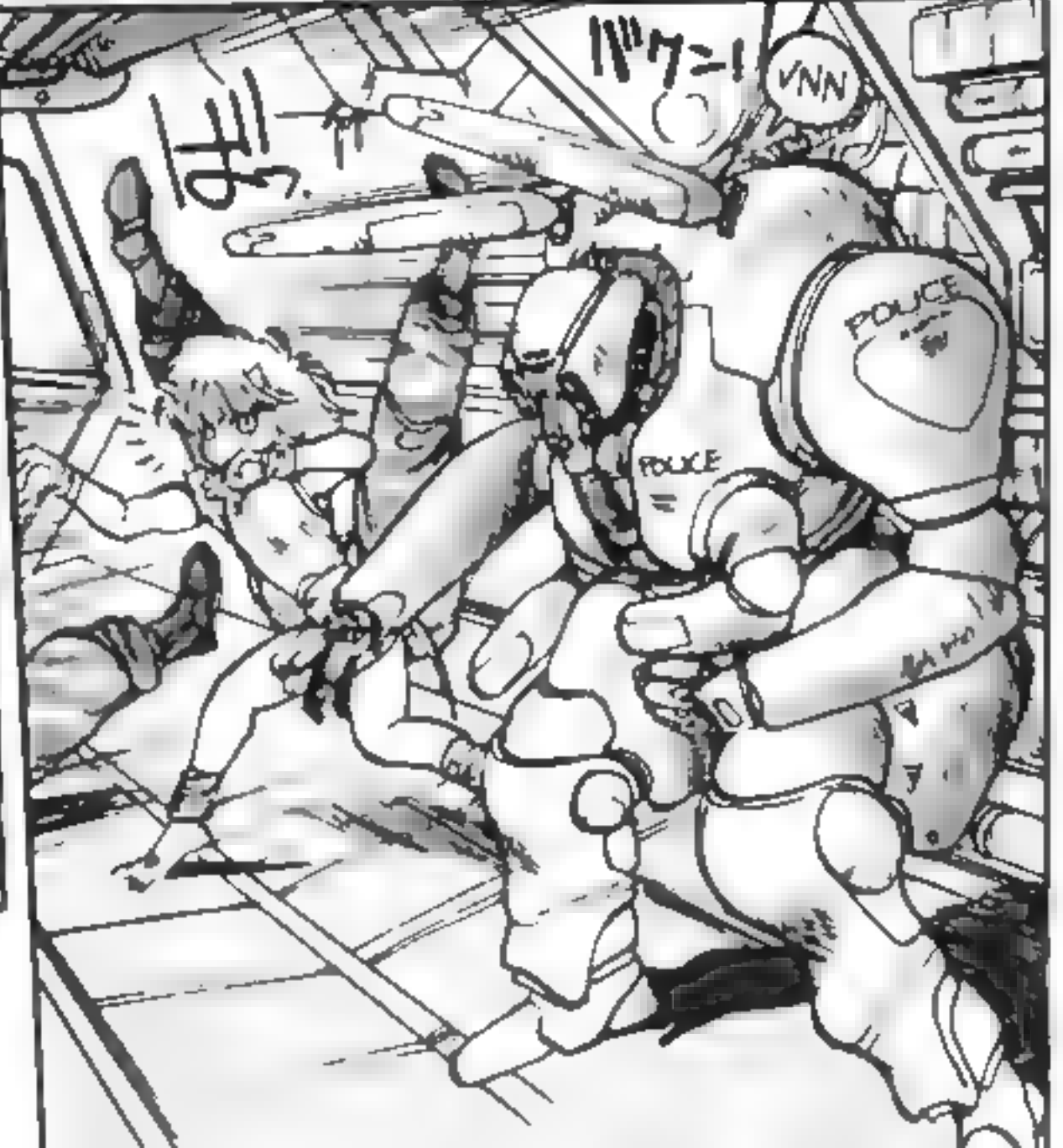
















\*FX WHRANNG

WHA?!

SON OF A BITCH! THE REACTOR CONTAINMENT FIELD'S FLUCTUATING-- DAMN!! THE SAFETY'S CUT IN!

\*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP



WHEN I GET BACK, THOSE BASTARDS IN INTEL ARE DEAD MEAT!!

A DATA SCREW-UP, PAL! THEY GOT HER MODEL WRONG!



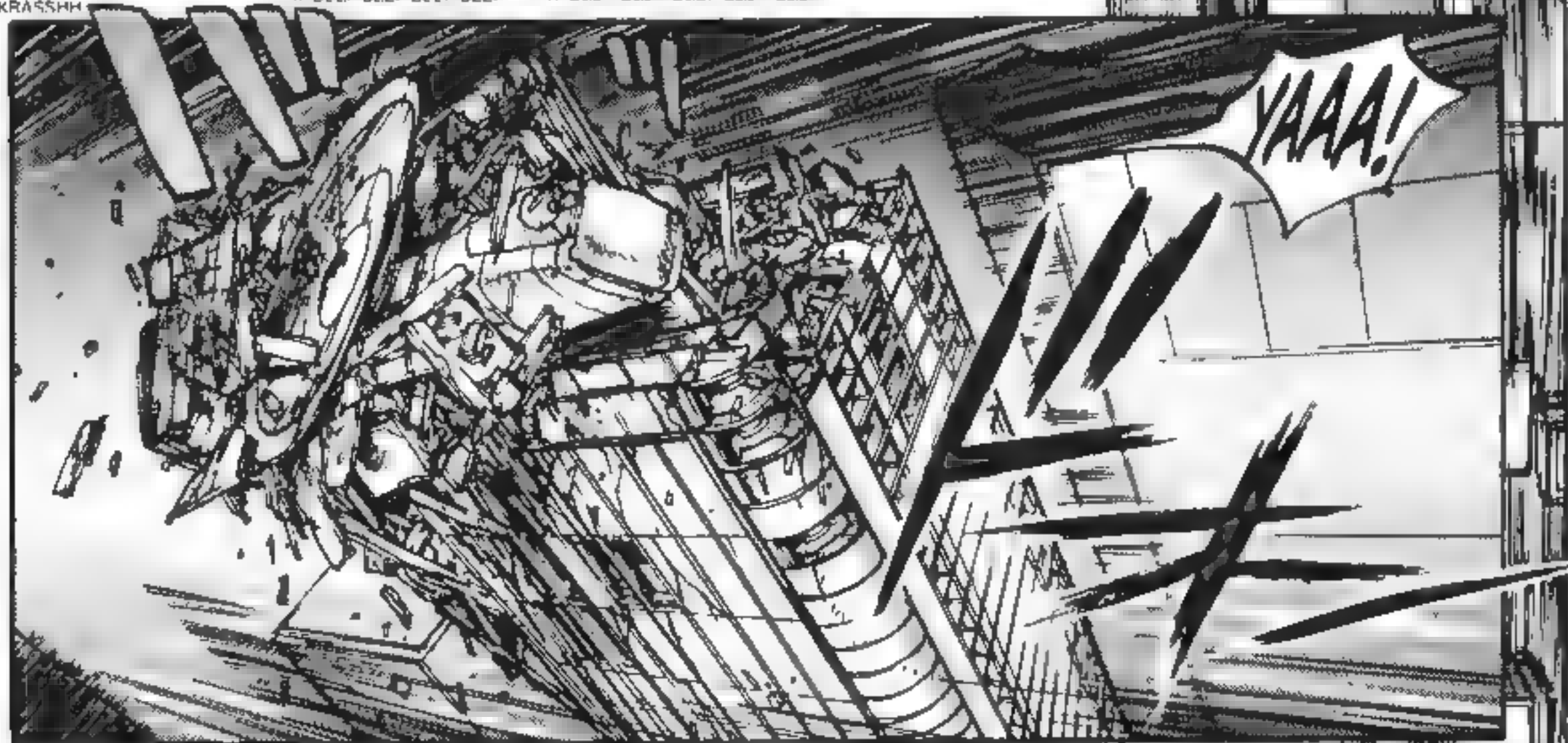
BUT HOW IN THE HELL COULD SHE...? THAT HIT YOU GAVE HER SHOULD HAVE LASTED TWICE AS LONG! AND EVEN IF SHE DID COME TO, HOW'D SHE GET OUT OF THE--

I'M TELLIN' YA, THAT'S HER!! THAT'S NO AUTOBUG OR LANDMATE MALFUNCTION!

\*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

\*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

\*FX SKRASSHH



YAAA!

\*FX WKOOM



ABOUT TWELVE KLIKS!

HOW MUCH FARTHER TO THE AIR-PORT?!

AIEE!

HLF!





\*FX BKROOOM



\*FX BROARRR

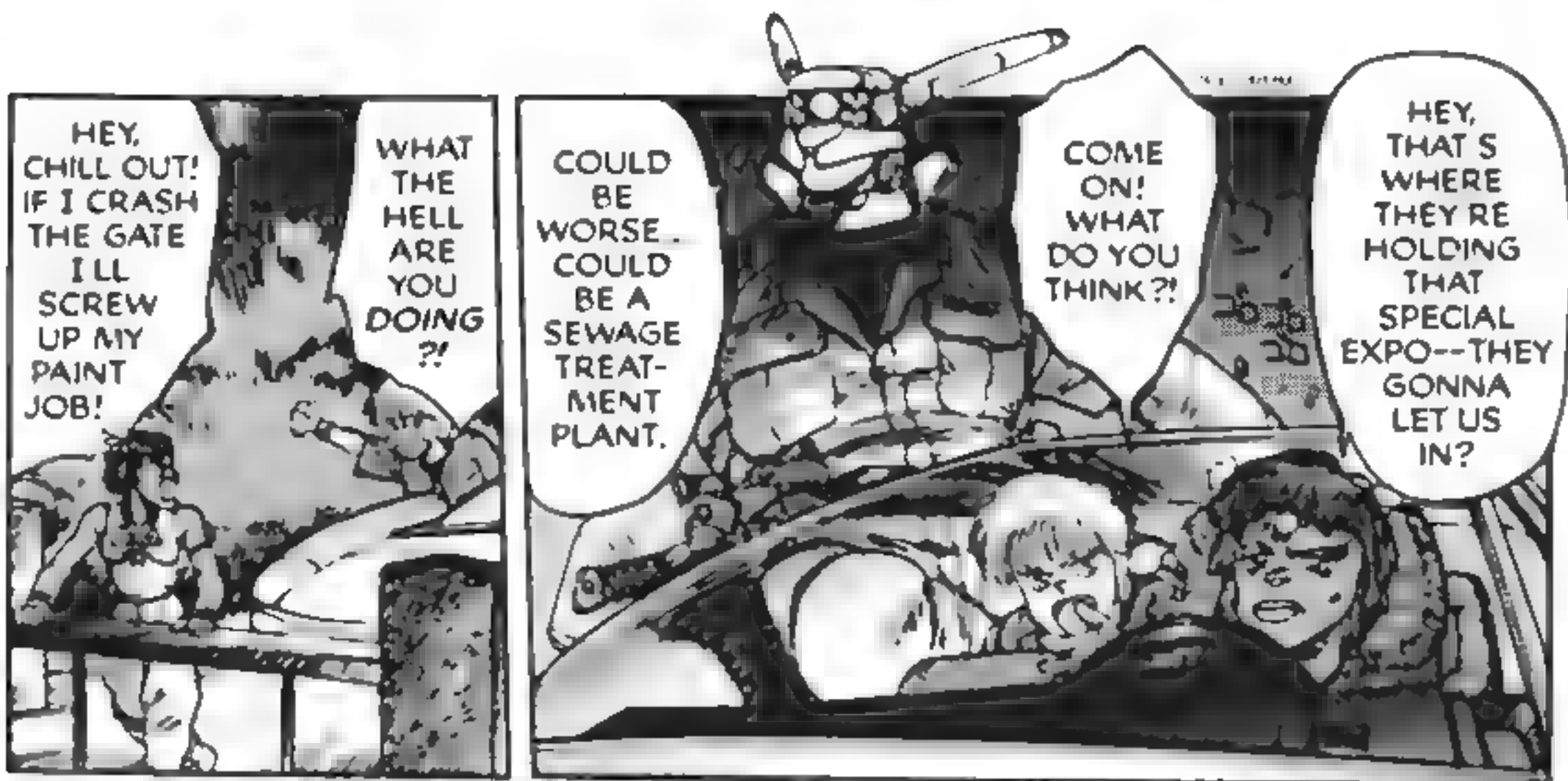


\*FX CHNG / // \*FX GISHOO

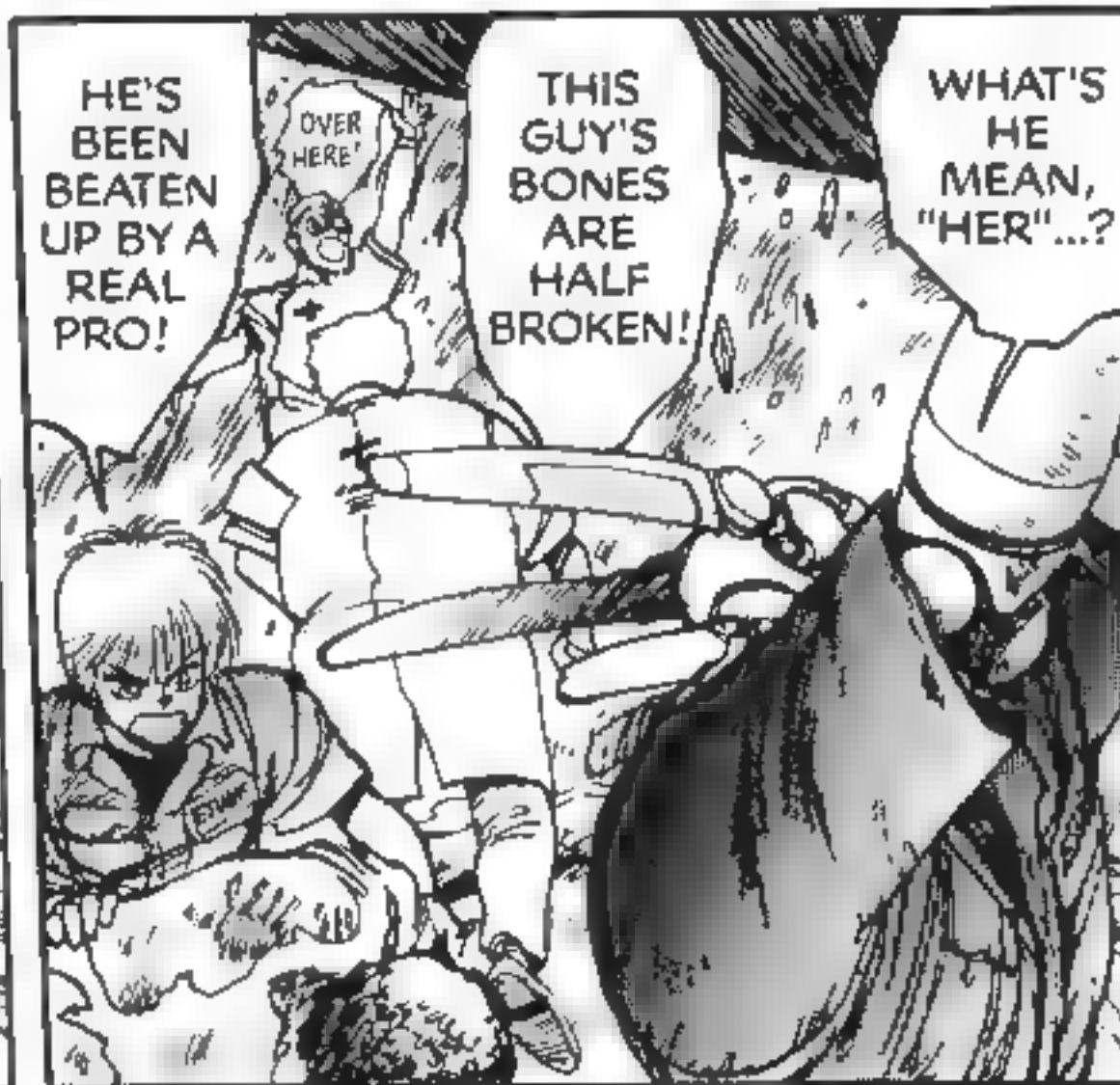


OVER  
THERE!







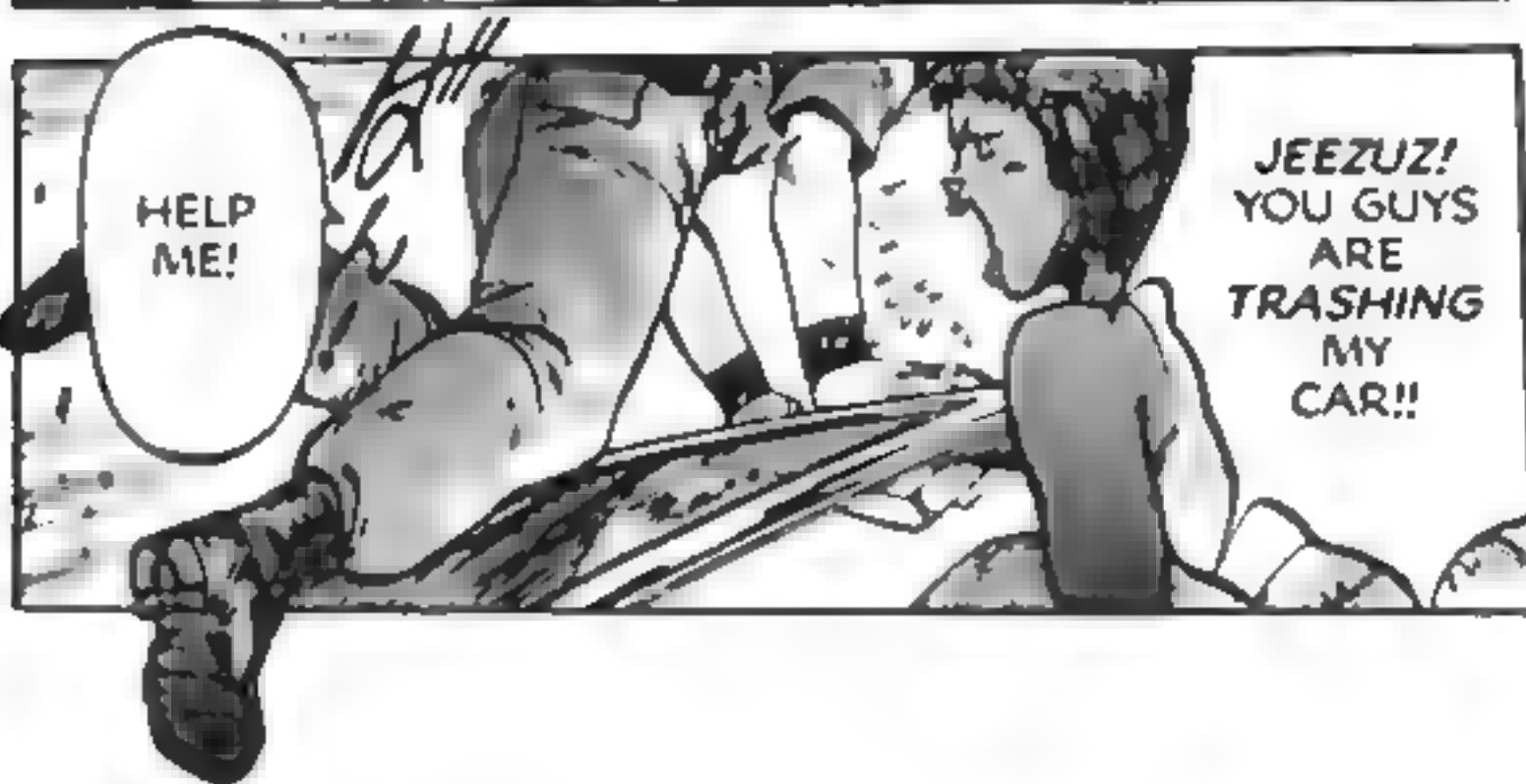
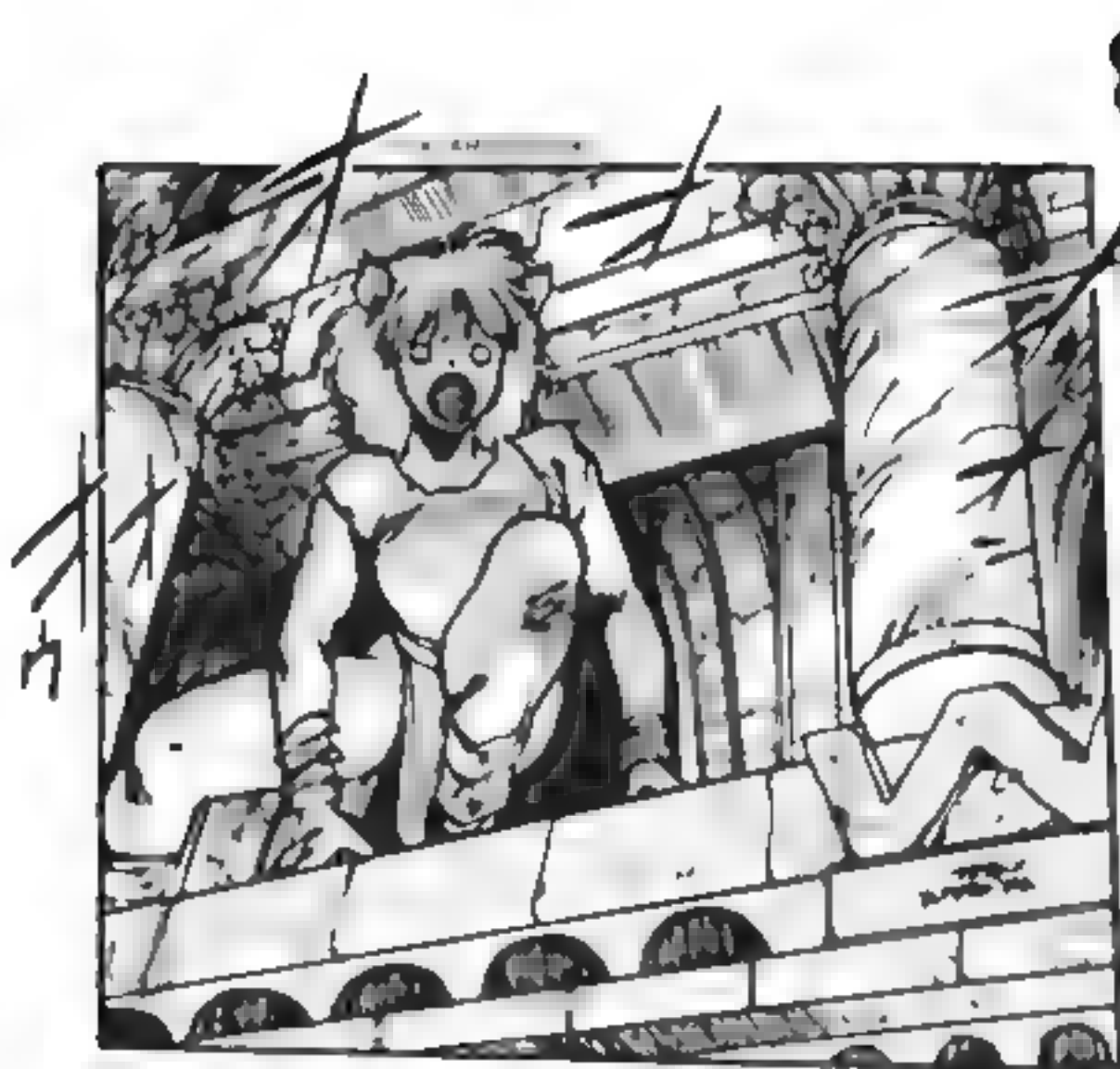


\*FX ROAARRR





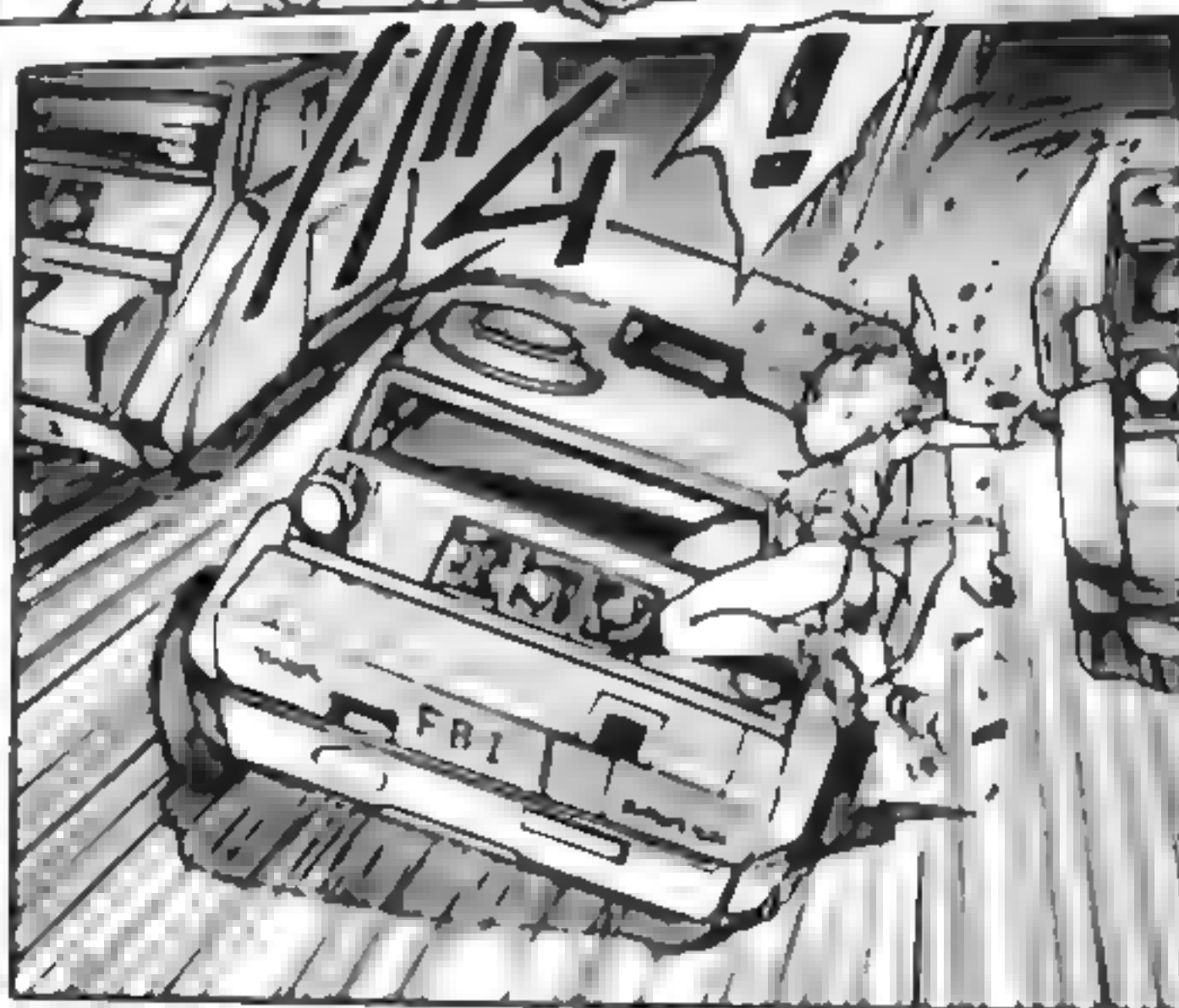
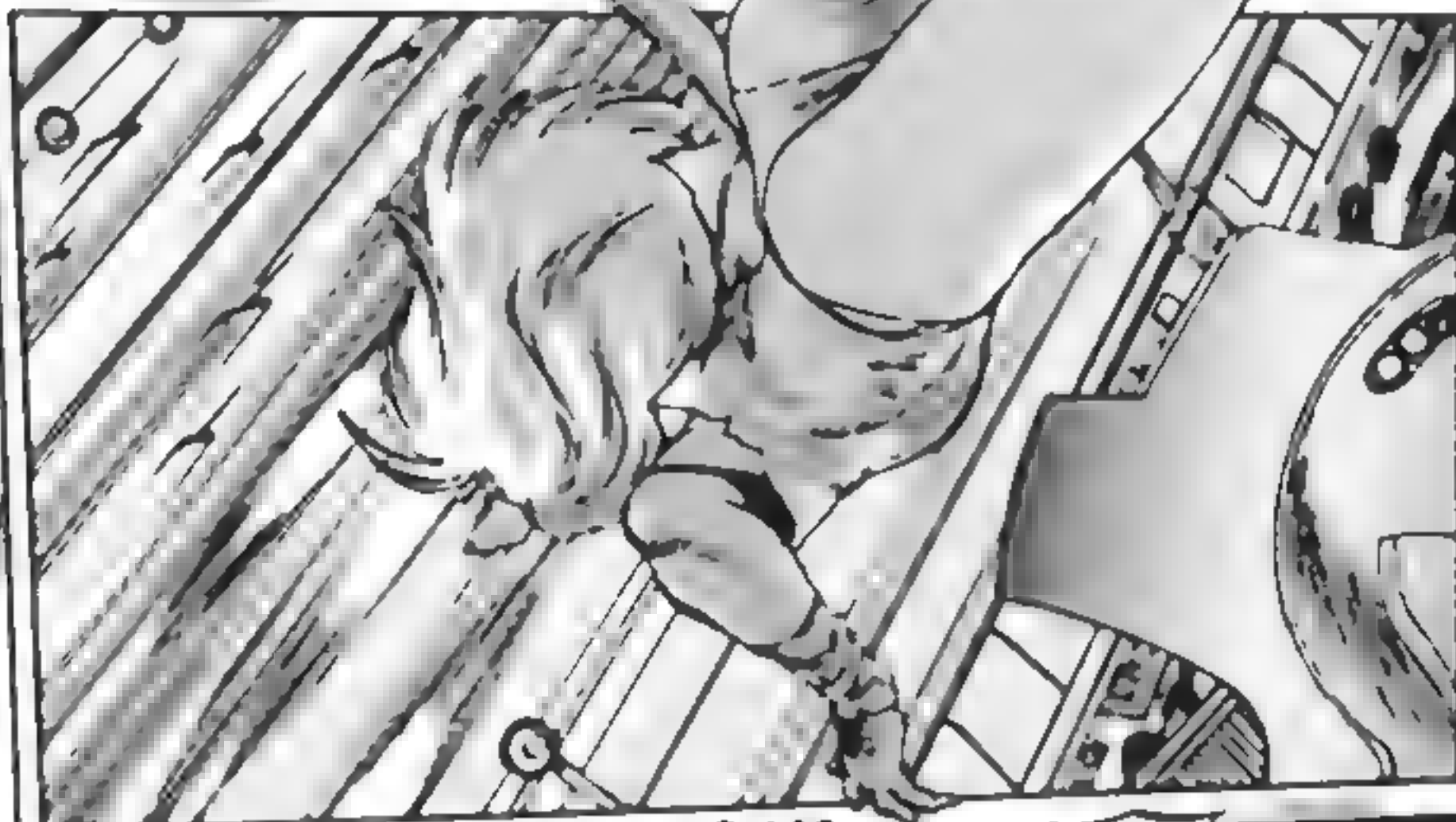




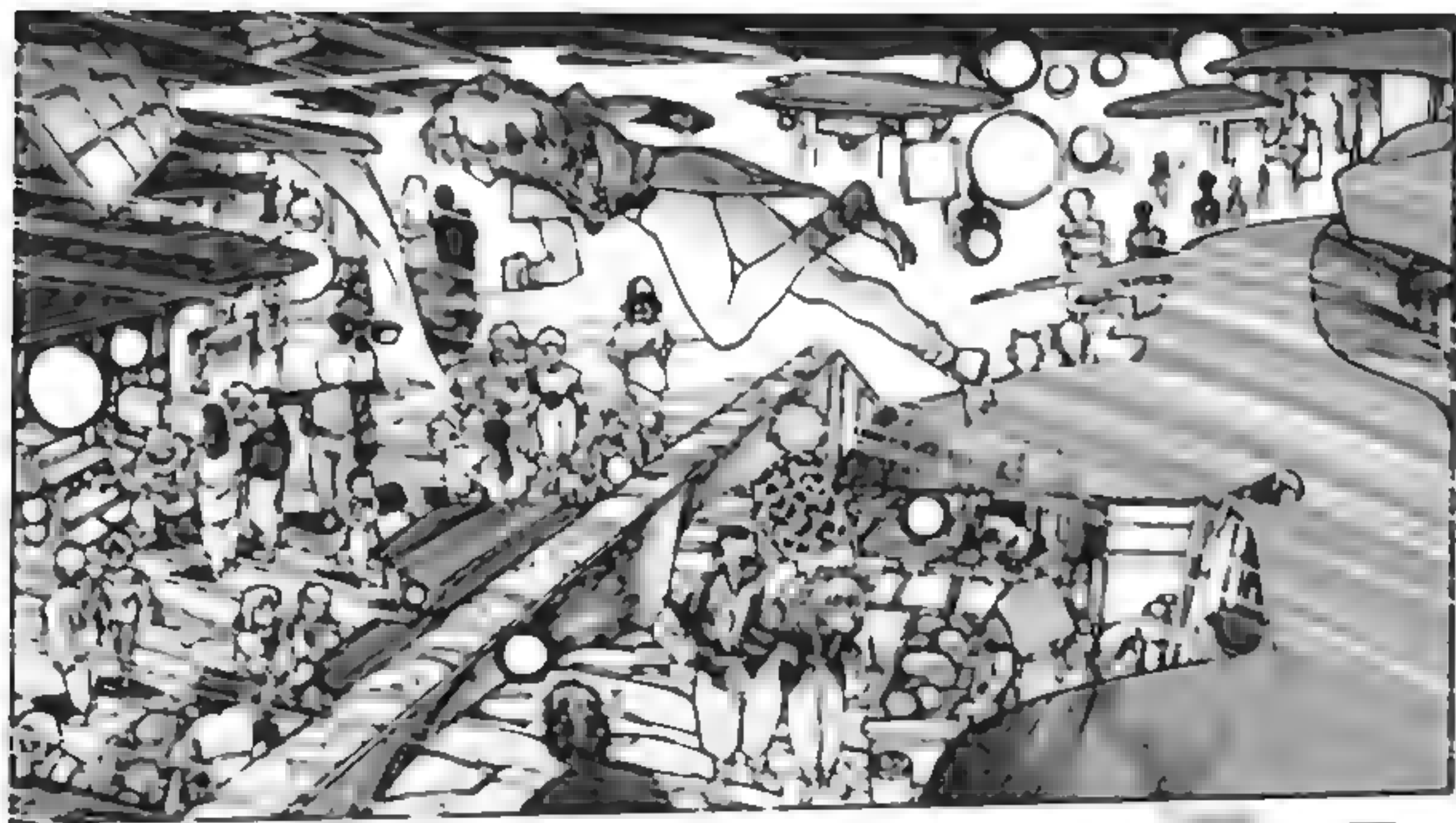














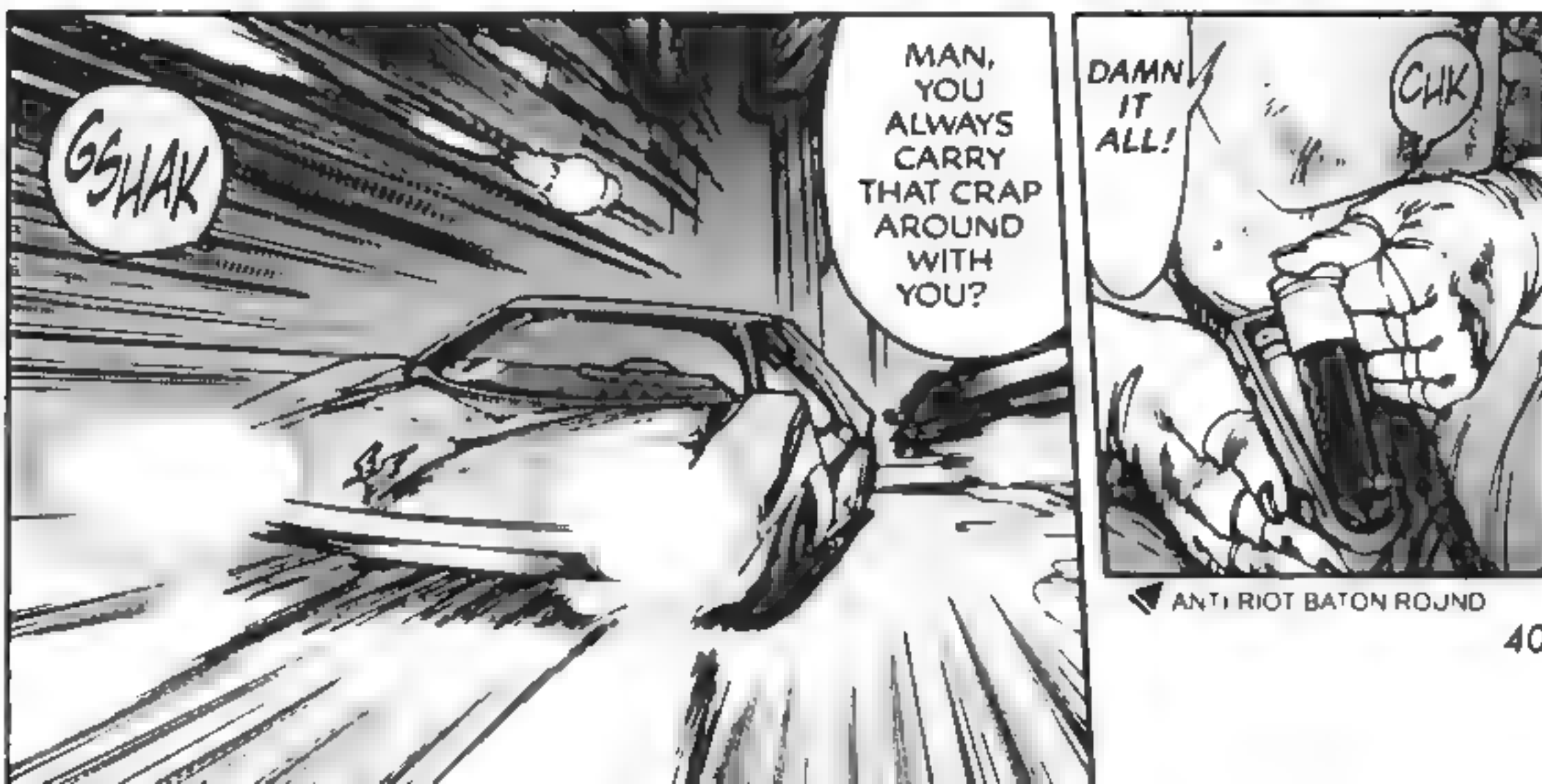
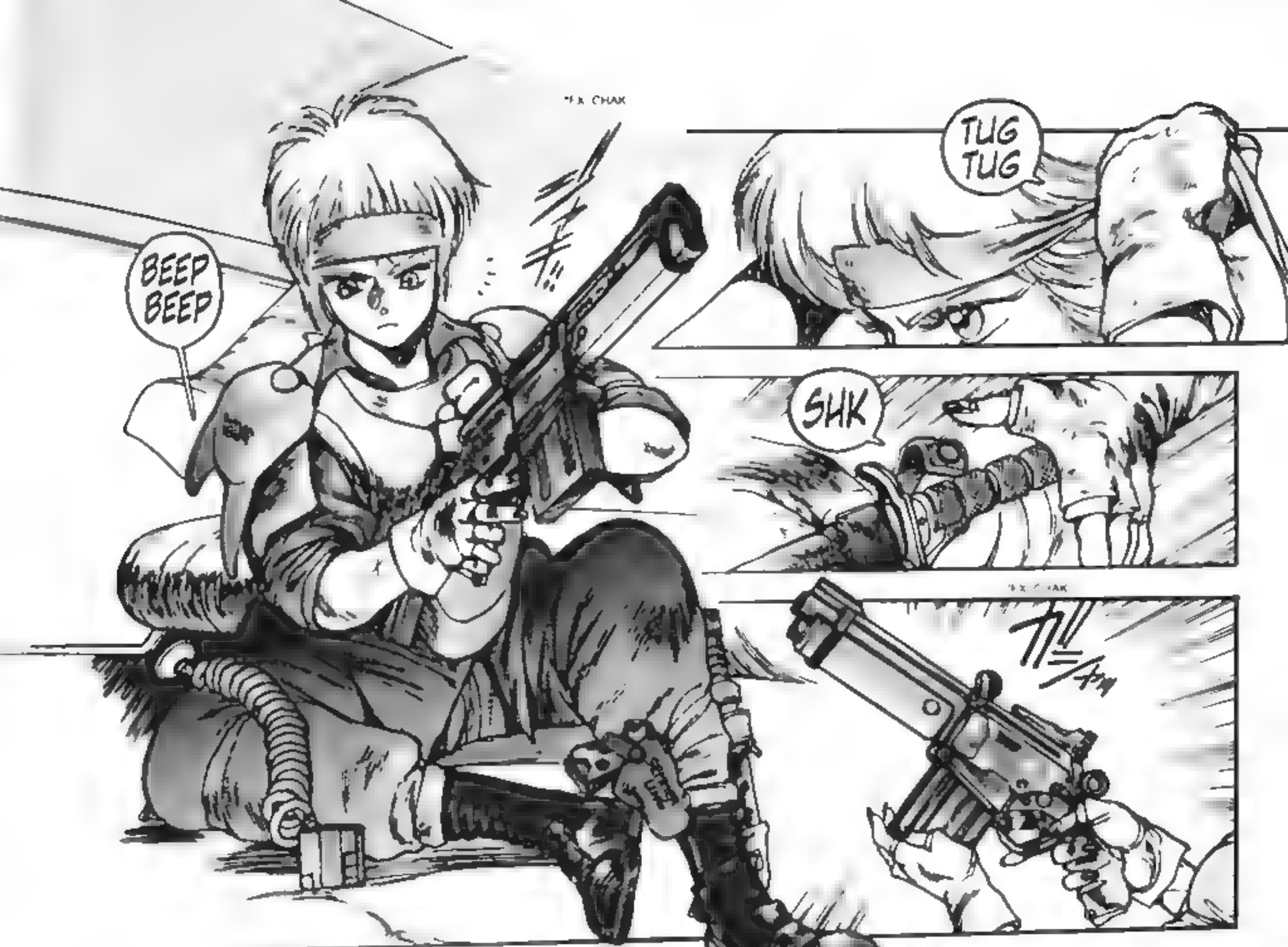




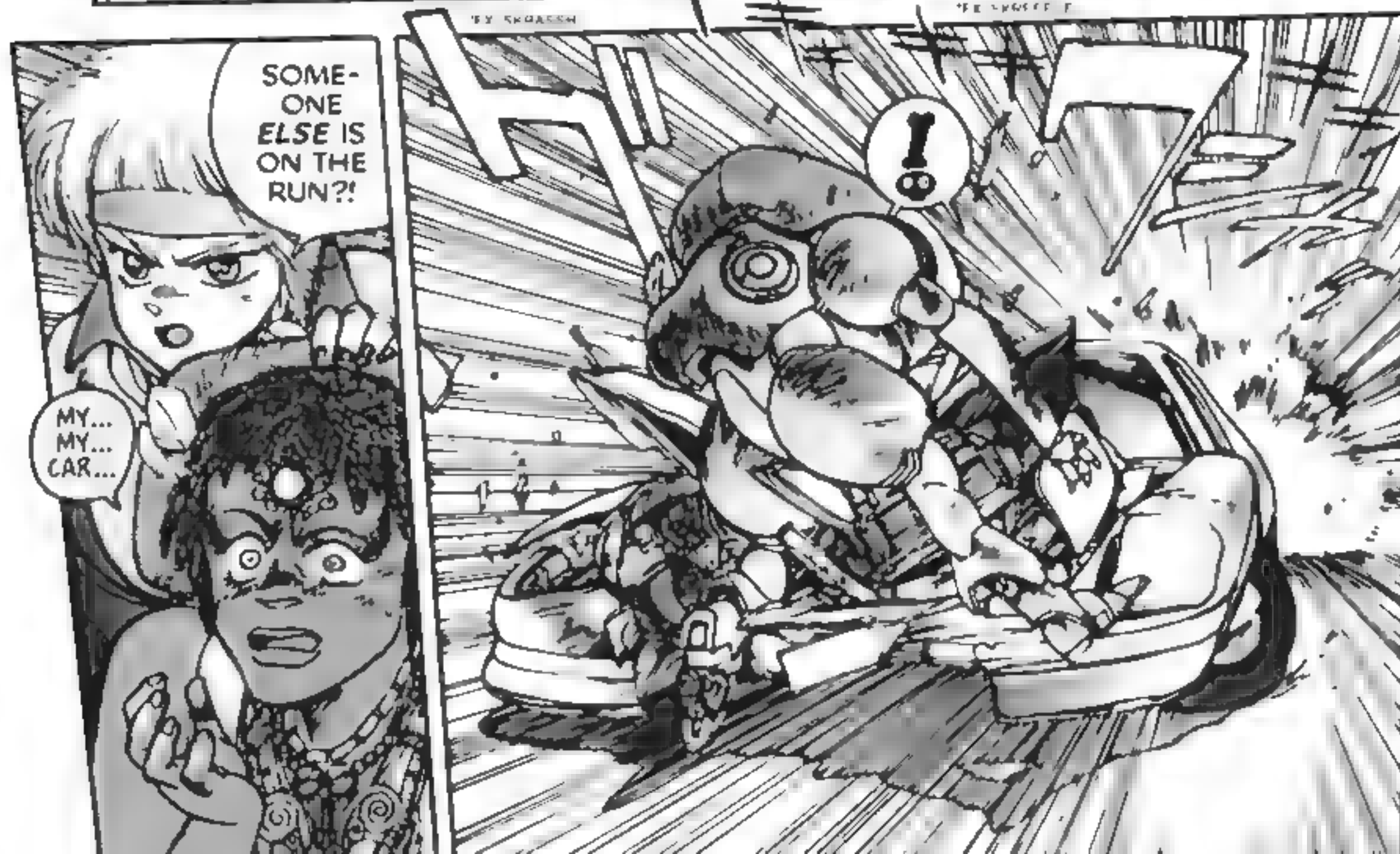














HOLD  
IT,  
YOU!!

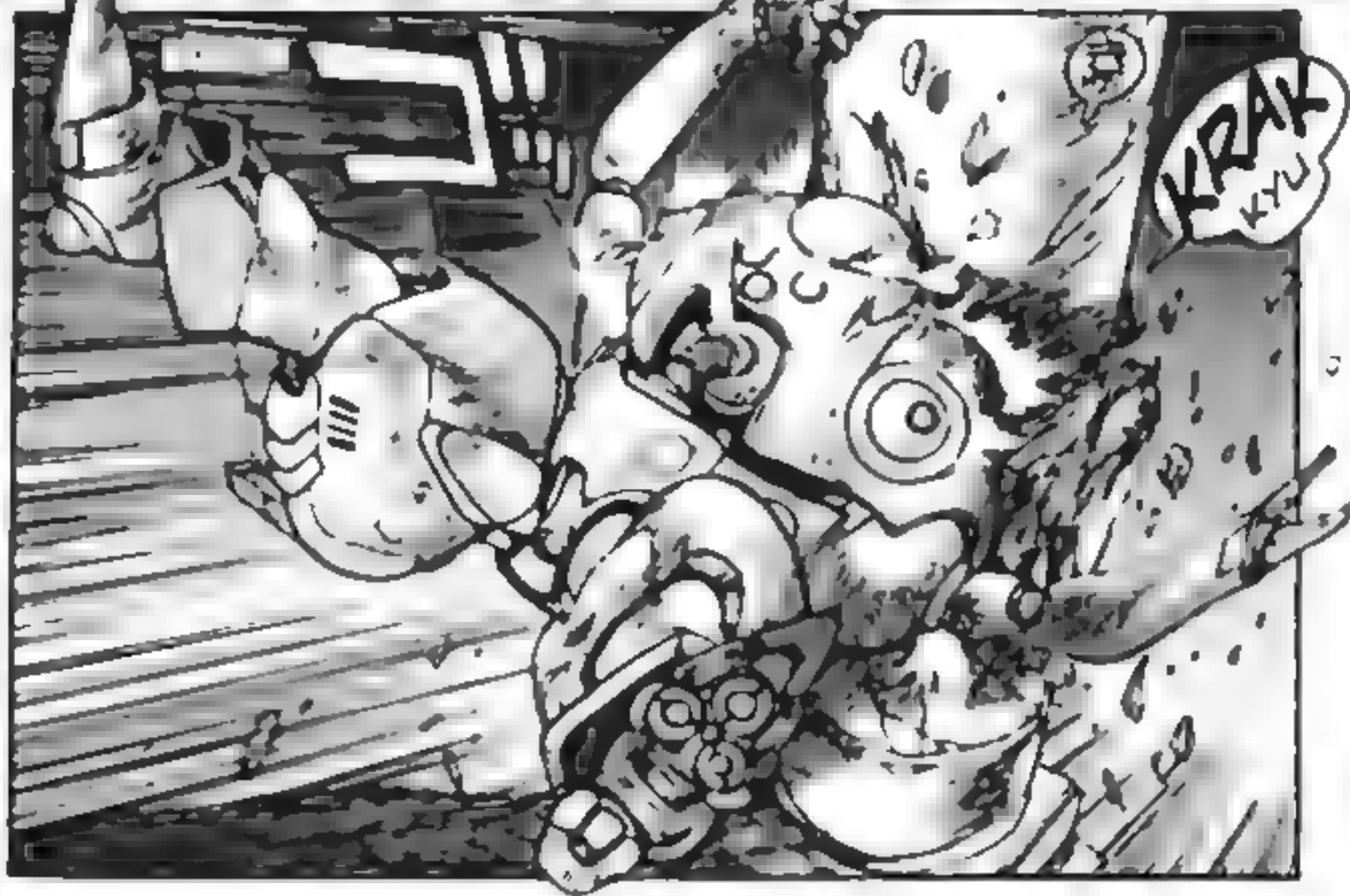
GE--GE--  
GET  
OFF MY  
CAR!!



YOU  
STAY IN  
THE CAR  
UNLESS  
YOU FEEL  
LIKE  
GETTING  
KILLED!

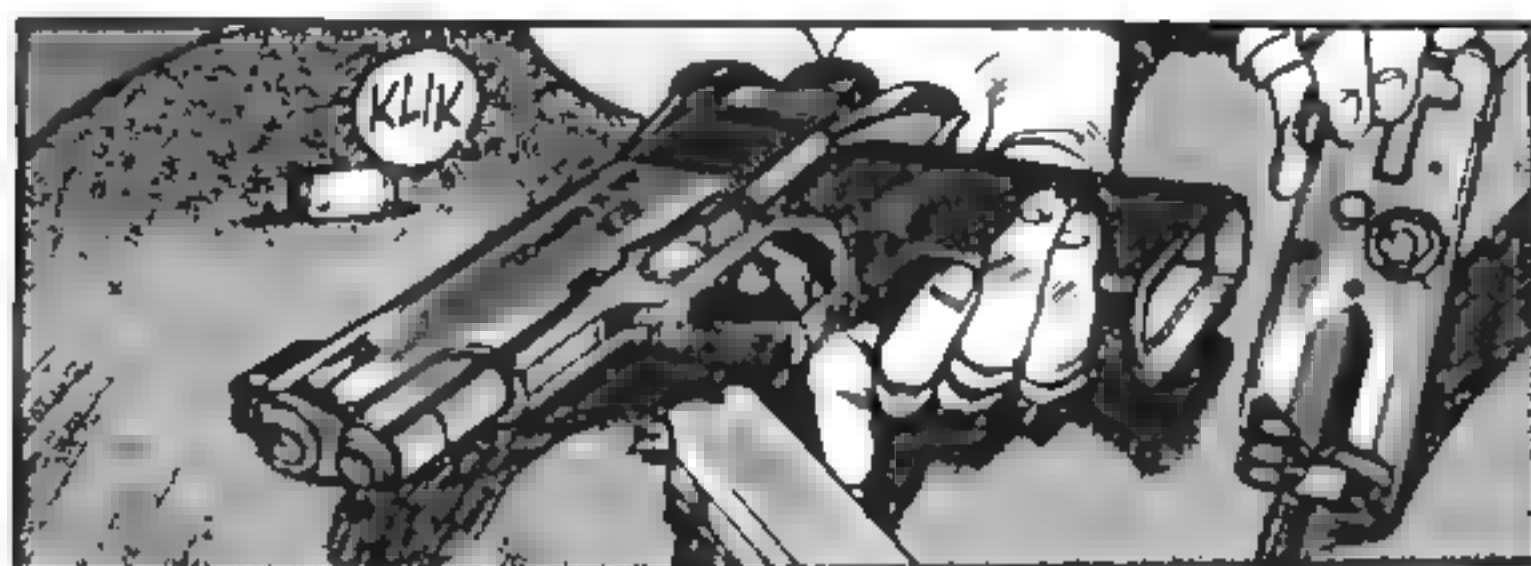
HOLY  
SHIT,  
WE HIT  
HIM!!

G  
Y  
AA  
F.F.F.F.

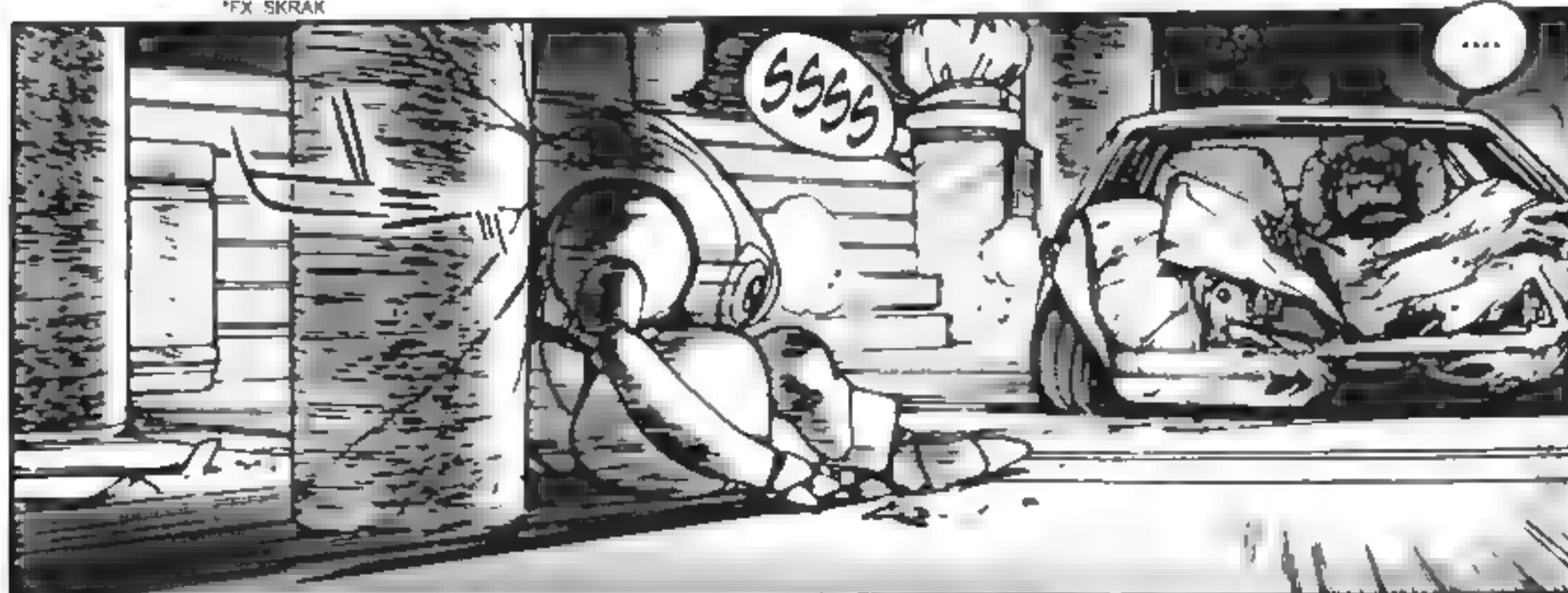


KRAK  
XYU





\*FX SKRAK



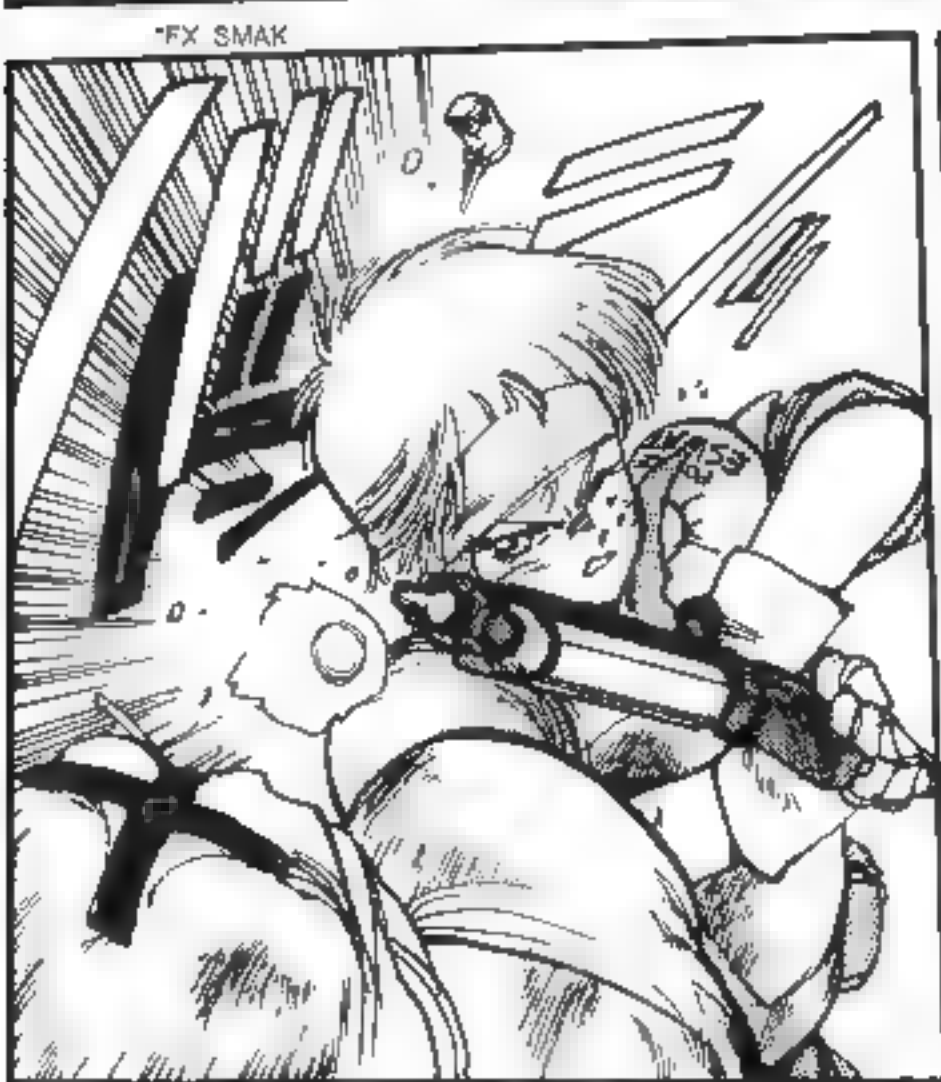
\*FX WZZZ



\*FX SSSSS

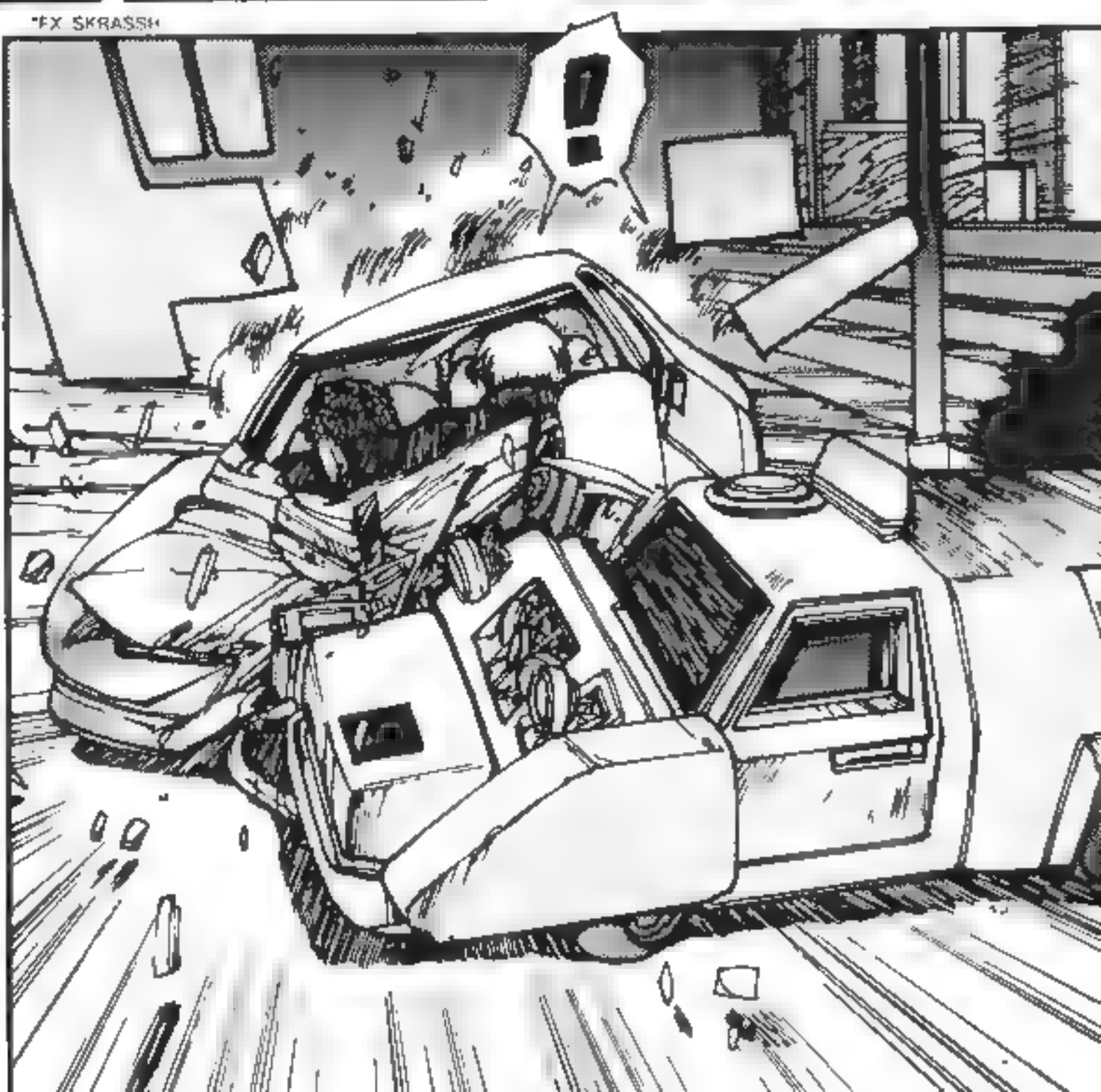
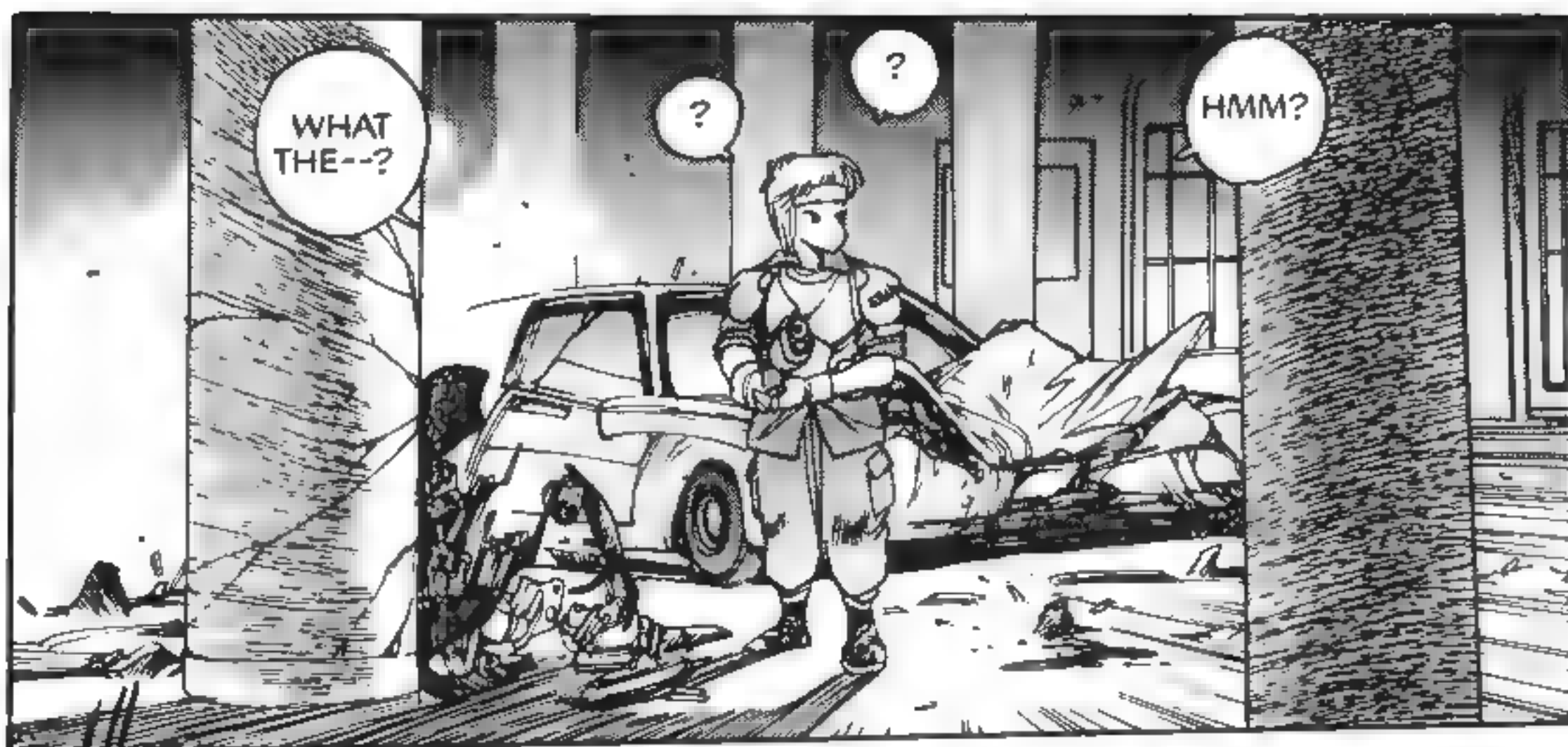


\*FX K-HAK

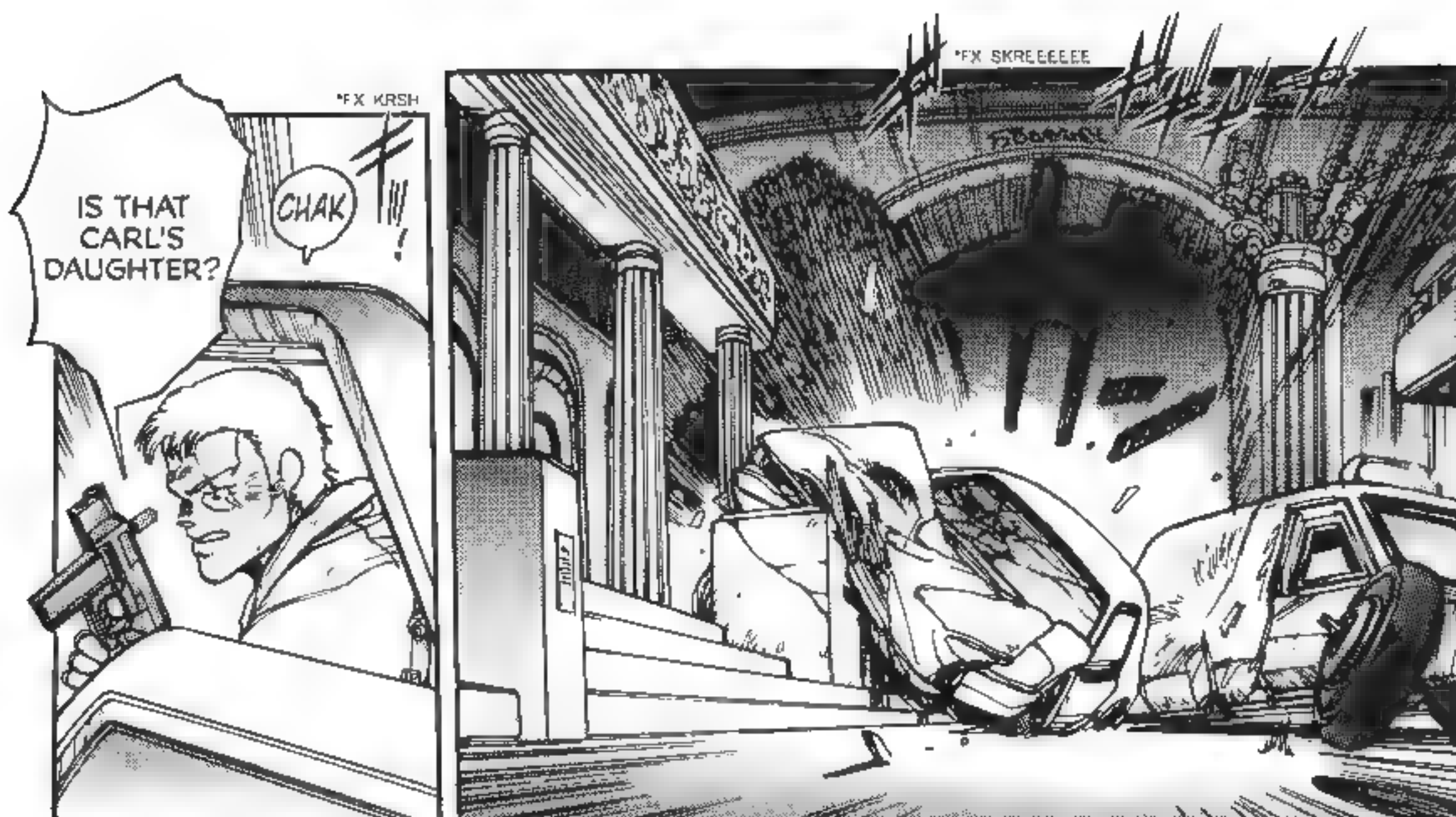














YOU SURE CAN SWAP PARTS FAST WITH THAT H-CLASS CYBORG SYSTEM! I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU SO SOON!

HAH! BRIAREOS, WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU...!



ESWAT. LET ME THROUGH.

HOW THE HELL DO YOU RELEASE TH'S BODY ARMOR?

IF BRIAREOS WERE HERE, HE'D POUND YOU!



CHIEF! FANG'S TRACER SIGNAL IS CLOSING IN!

HMPH!

THANKS, BUT I'LL CHECK ANYWAY.

THE LOCAL RESCUE UNIT WILL VOUCH FOR OUR ALIBI.



EXCUSE ME! I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS!

SNFF!



YEAH...THAT GIRL WE WERE AFTER SHOT OUT MY LEFT EYE, SO ARUGESS CALLED IN A MEDITECH.

?

WAIT A SEC... "SWAP PARTS" ...?



IDIOT!



WELL, I'M PRETTY WELL ARMORED... FIGURED I'D BE FINE.

YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GO RUNNING OFF WITHOUT ANY BACK-UP...?



YOU DEPEND ON GUNS TOO MUCH! LOOK AT THOSE FBI GUYS...THEY DON'T EVEN DRAW UNTIL THE SHOOTING STARTS. AW...COME ON...I HATE IT WHEN YOU DO THAT...

THAT'S WHAT YOU GET WITH SOMEONE WHO'S ONLY DONE SWAT--NO INVESTIGATIVE WORK.

I--I WAS SCARED, DAMN IT! MY WARNING SHOT WAS OFF. THAT RIOT BATON ROUND DIDN'T WORK, NOT EVEN A DIRECT HIT AT POINT-BLANK RANGE! AND THEN I, I...

SNFF

HEY, YOUR FACE! THOSE SCRATCHES...

IDIOT!

BETTER DUMP THAT ARMOR, JUST IN CASE.

HER KNIFE HAD A PECULIAR SMELL. STRANGE SHEEN.

ZATCH

WELL, WHAT WAS SHE? CYBORG? I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT POSEIDON HAVING BIOROID TECHNOLOGY.

SO SHE'S ALL YOURS NOW.

SHE GOT AWAY, BUT I HIT HER WITH A B-TYPE ODOR BOMB.

H-HEY! THAT'S THE GUY WHO...



AFTER THAT, I'M GOING TO COMB THE AREA WHERE SHE LOST ME.

I NEED FIFTEEN MINUTES TO TRANSCRIBE MY REPORT. I'LL DELIVER IT TO YOUR VEHICLE.

I GUARANTEE SHE'S NOT AN OLYMPUS COMBAT BIOROID. NO RESONANCE.



NOT RUNNERS, EITHER. THEY'RE CLEAN.

DIFFERENT SMELL. DIFFERENT FEELING.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE TWO?

I'M LEAVING MY PRIVATE COMLINK OPEN. IF THE DRAGNET SNARES HER, CALL ME.



YEAH. LOOKS LIKE WE CAN RE-STORE THE ANTI-CYBORG RIFLES WHILE WAITING FOR THEIR ALIBI TO CLEAR.

YOU HEAR THAT?

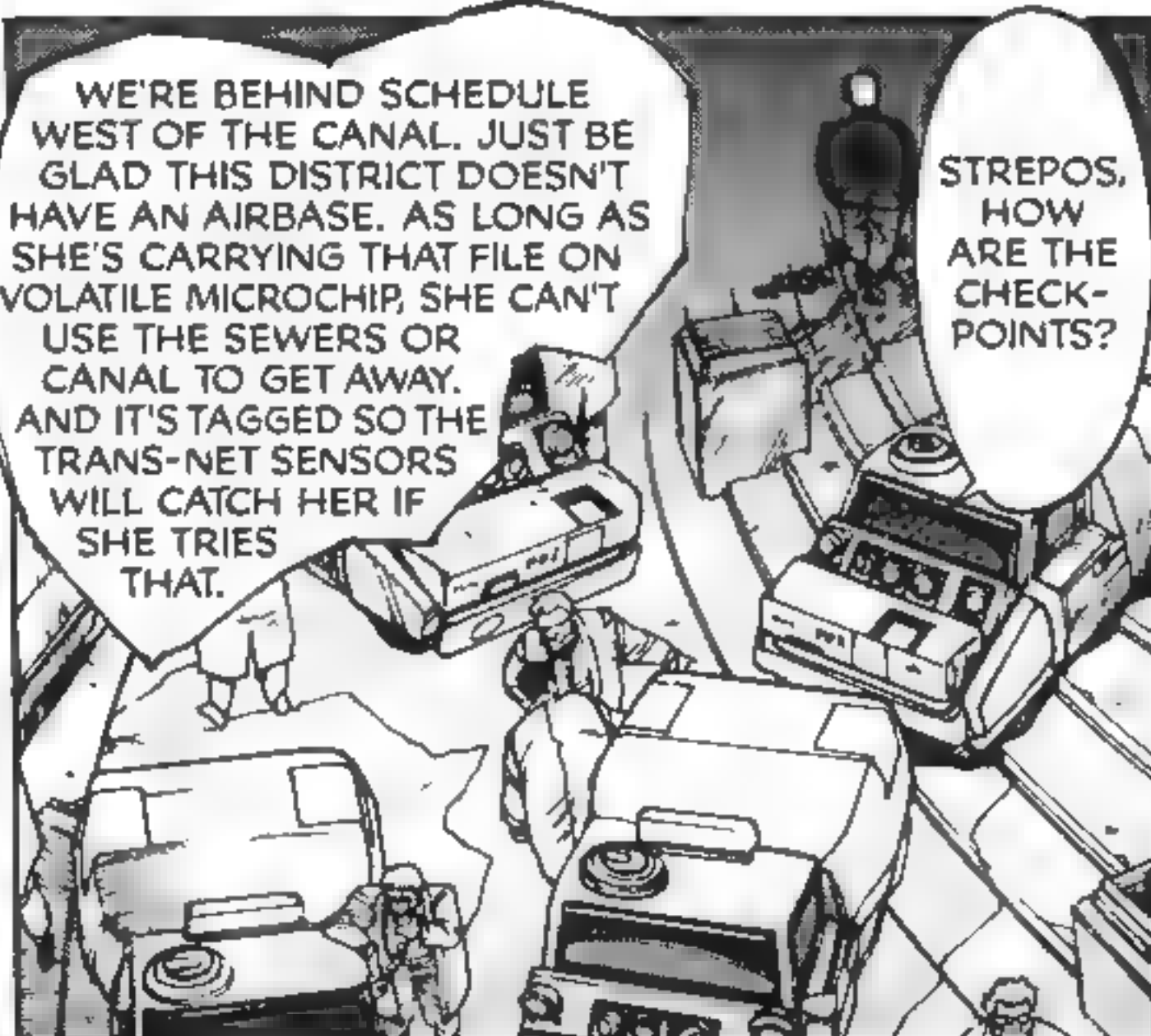


FANG, WAIT.



FORGET IT. STAY CLEAN.

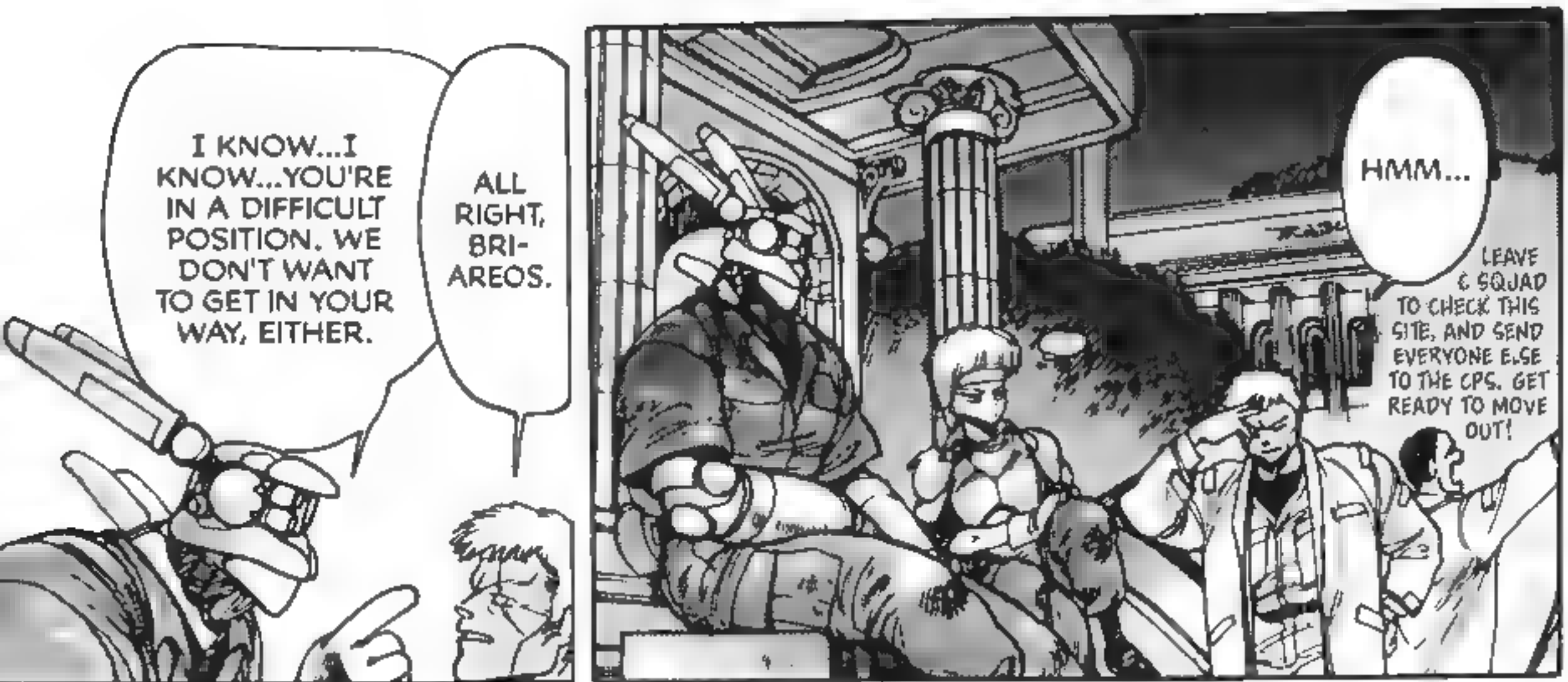
THANKS FOR SAVING MY NECK! I OWE YOU ONE.



WE'RE BEHIND SCHEDULE WEST OF THE CANAL. JUST BE GLAD THIS DISTRICT DOESN'T HAVE AN AIRBASE. AS LONG AS SHE'S CARRYING THAT FILE ON VOLATILE MICROCHIP, SHE CAN'T USE THE SEWERS OR CANAL TO GET AWAY. AND IT'S TAGGED SO THE TRANS-NET SENSORS WILL CATCH HER IF SHE TRIES THAT.

STREPOS, HOW ARE THE CHECKPOINTS?

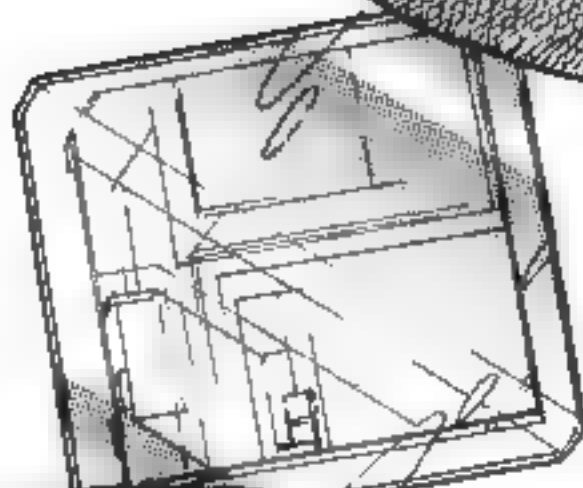








HMMM...  
EVEN AT  
MAXIMUM  
ZOOM I  
CAN ONLY  
JUST MAKE  
OUT THE  
BASIC  
PATTERN.



#3

\*FX ZRRY

IF  
THAT SPY  
YESTERDAY  
REALLY *DID*  
PLANT IT  
ON ME,  
SHE'LL BE  
COMING  
HERE TO  
GET IT  
BACK!

HEY!  
I JUST  
THOUGHT  
OF  
SOME-  
THING!

SO THAT'S WHY SHE  
WENT FOR THE BACK  
OF MY HEAD THAT  
WAY-- SHE MUST HAVE  
BEEN DESPERATE TO  
UNLOAD IT. I GUESS  
I OWE MY LIFE TO  
THAT "FANG" GUY  
TWICE OVER.  
SHOULD WE  
TAKE IT  
TO THE  
FBI?

IT'S A  
TYPICAL,  
EVEN  
HACKNEYED  
TRICK.

I CAN'T TELL IF  
IT'S PART OF A FILE  
OR SOME KIND  
OF DECRYPTION  
KEY. BUT JUDGING  
FROM THE  
SITUATION, I'D SAY  
IT MUST BE WHAT  
THE FBI WAS  
SEARCHING FOR  
YESTERDAY.

DIDN'T SHE  
WORRY  
ABOUT IT  
FALLING OFF?  
AND HOW  
ABOUT ME  
FINDING IT,  
LIKE I JUST  
DID?

IF YOU'RE  
GONNA GO  
FISHING, MAY  
AS WELL TRY  
FOR THE BIG  
ONE.

NO PROBLEM.  
WE GIVE IT TO  
THE FBI, THEY  
GIVE US A FAKE  
CHIP MICRO-  
TRANSMITTER.  
YOU PUT IT BACK  
ON YOUR NECK  
WHERE IT WAS  
STUCK BEFORE,  
AND WAIT.

OUR SPY  
FRIEND CAN  
AMUSE  
HERSELF  
ROOTING  
THROUGH  
OUR  
GARBAGE.

USING THAT  
ZOOM  
FUNCTION IS  
TOUGH!

LOOKS  
LIKE WE  
SHOULD  
TAKE A  
WALK.

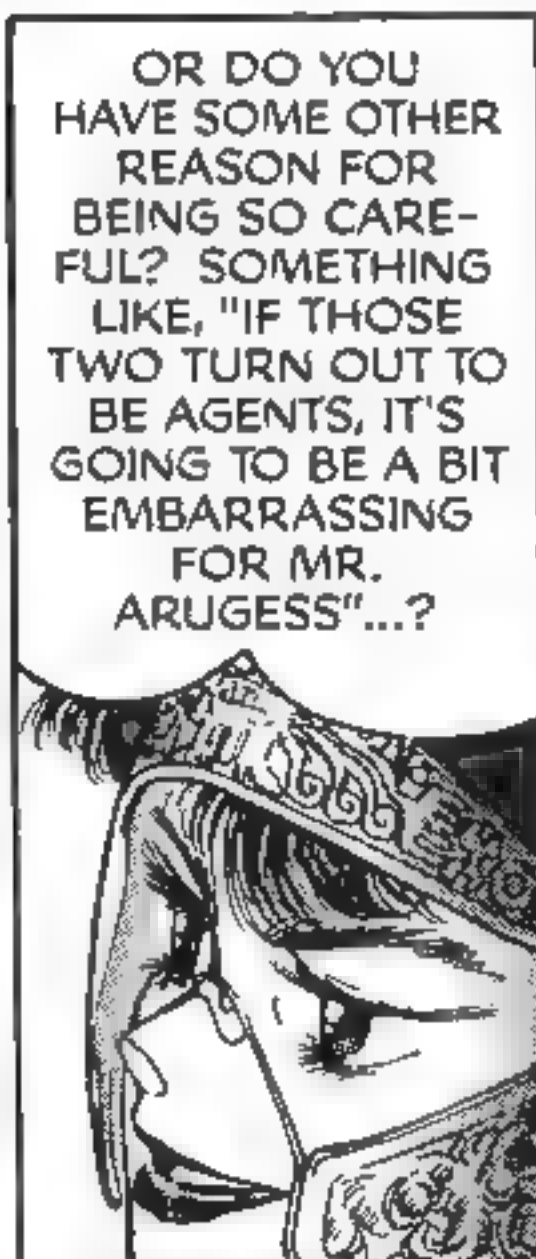
I GUESS YOU'RE  
RIGHT. STILL, THAT SPY  
MUST BE DESPERATE  
TO GET AWAY, WHICH  
MEANS SHE'LL  
PROBABLY WANT  
TO MAKE CONTACT  
SOMETIME TODAY.

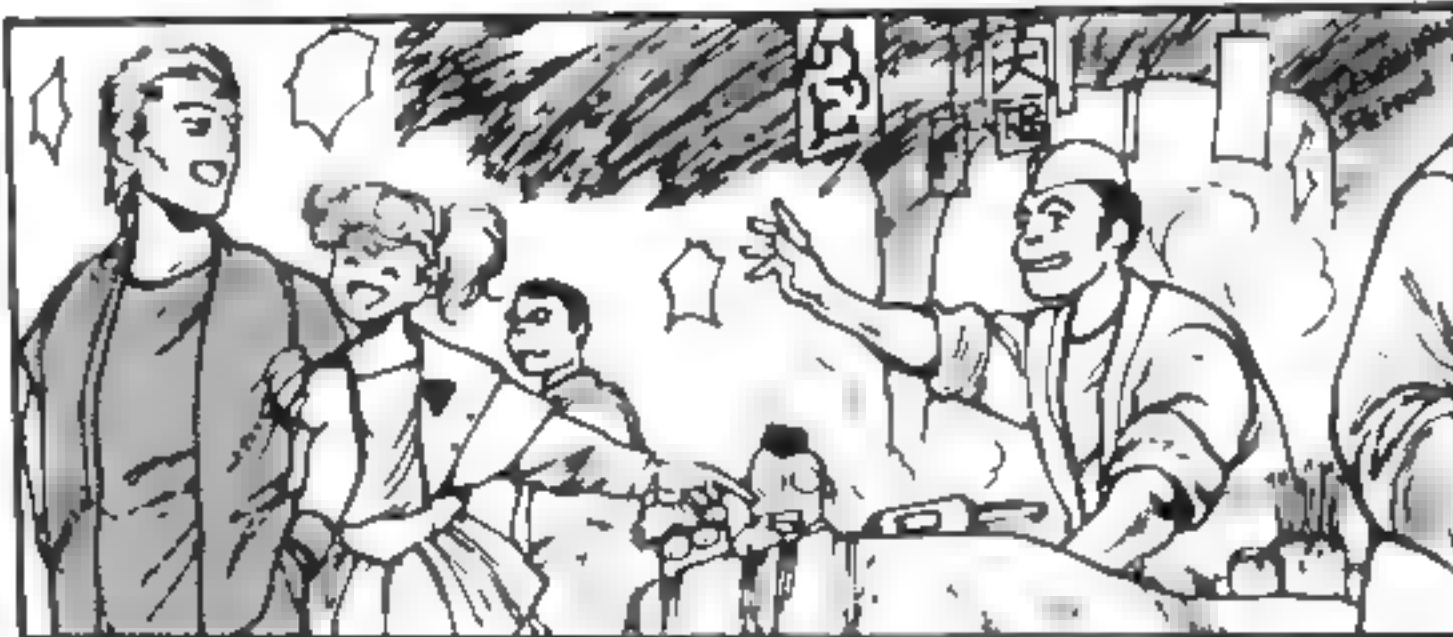
FOR THAT  
YOU'VE GOT TO  
THANK VEL--  
er, ARUGESS.  
NORMALLY, WE'D  
HAVE BEEN UP ALL  
NIGHT DOING  
PAPERWORK, OR  
EVEN LOCKED UP  
IN AN FBI CELL,  
AND IF IT FELL  
OFF THERE...

HEH  
HEH

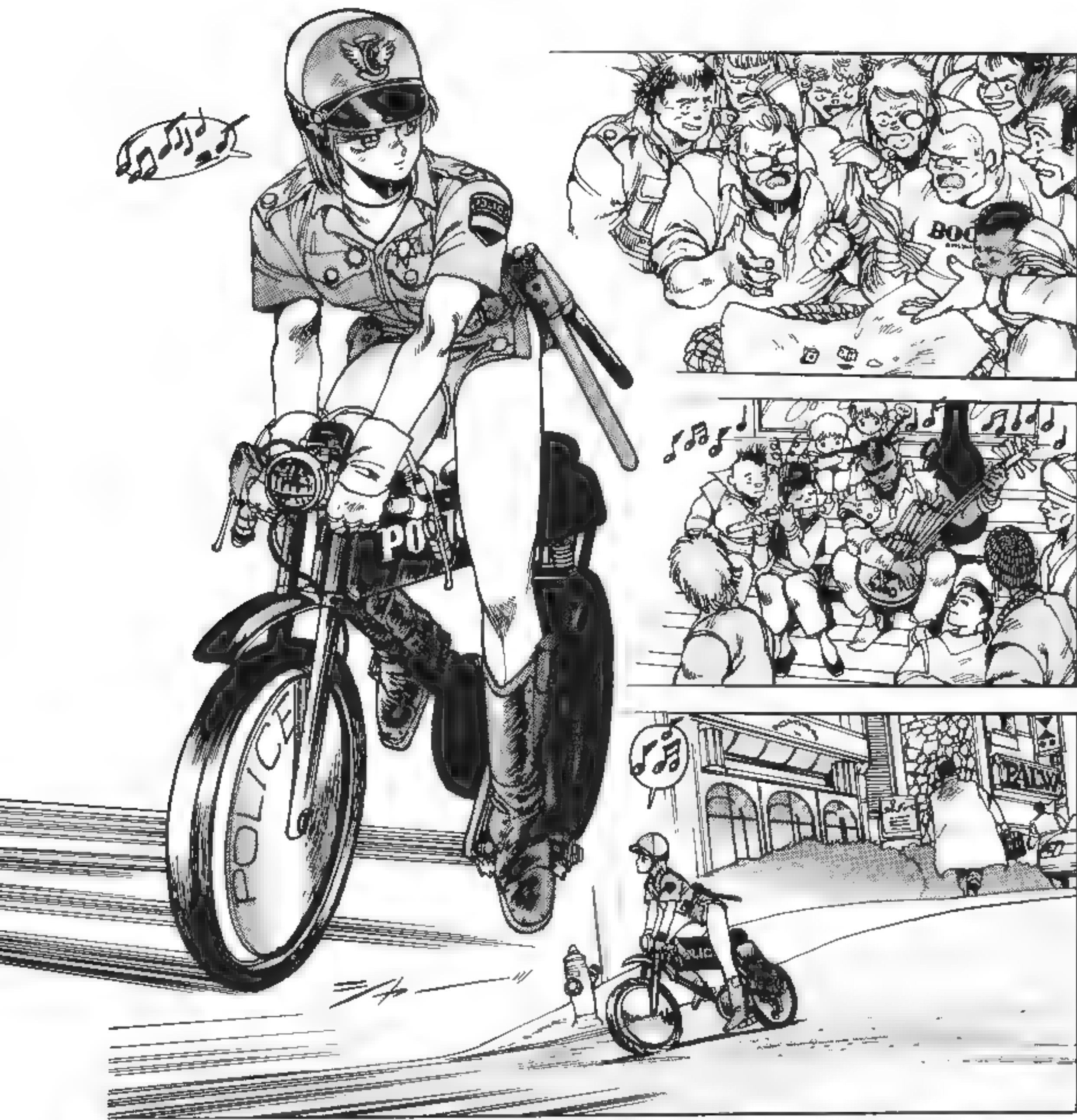




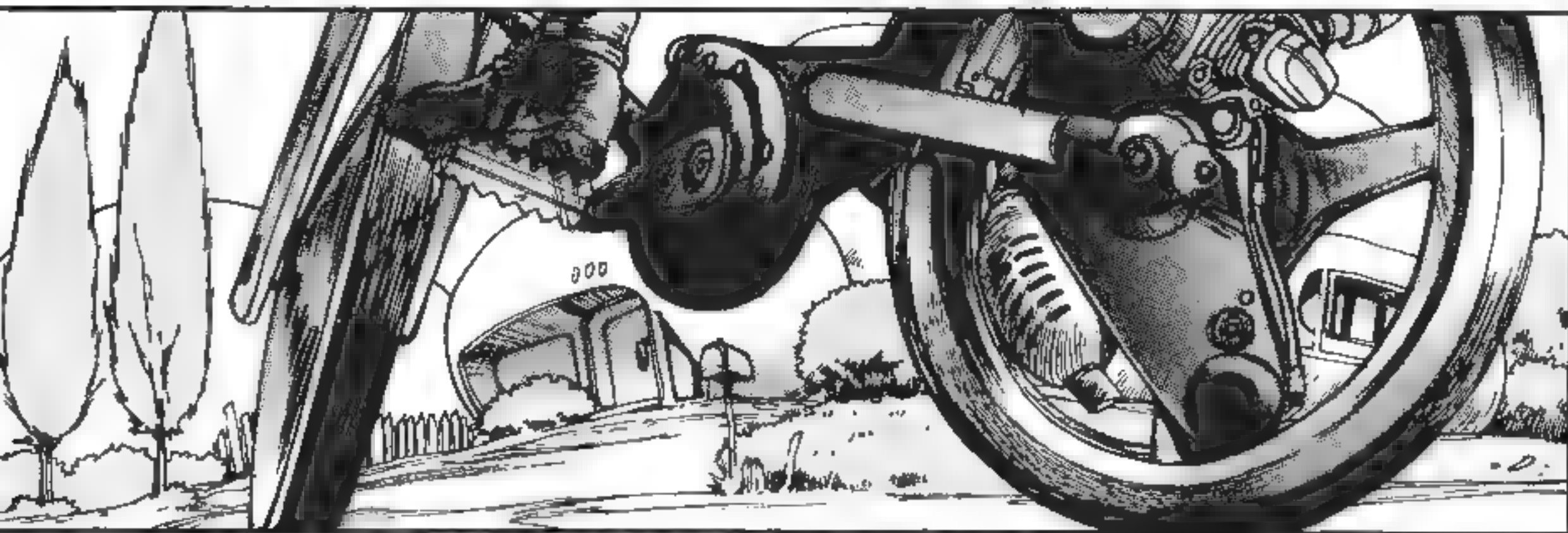


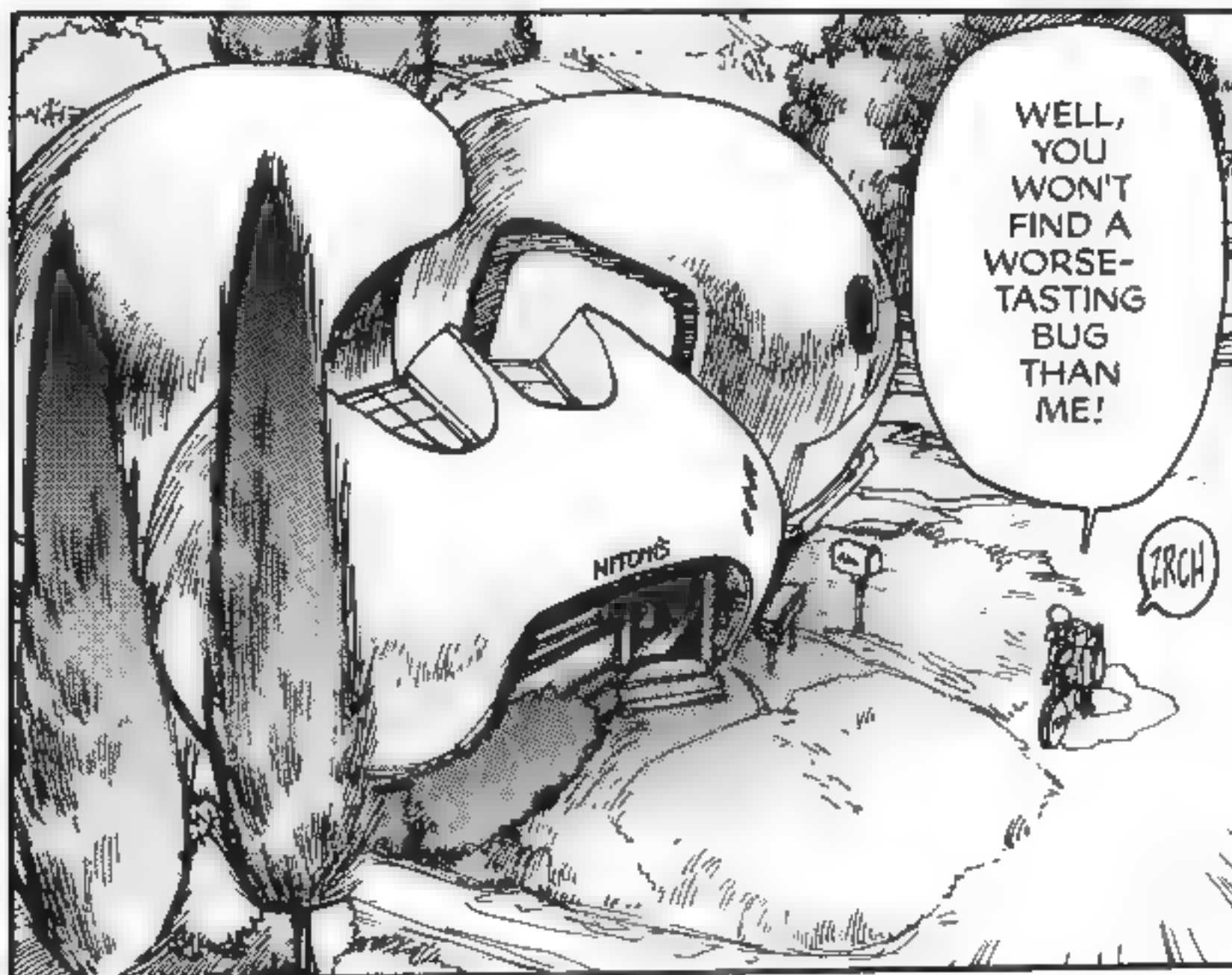






FX ZHEEN



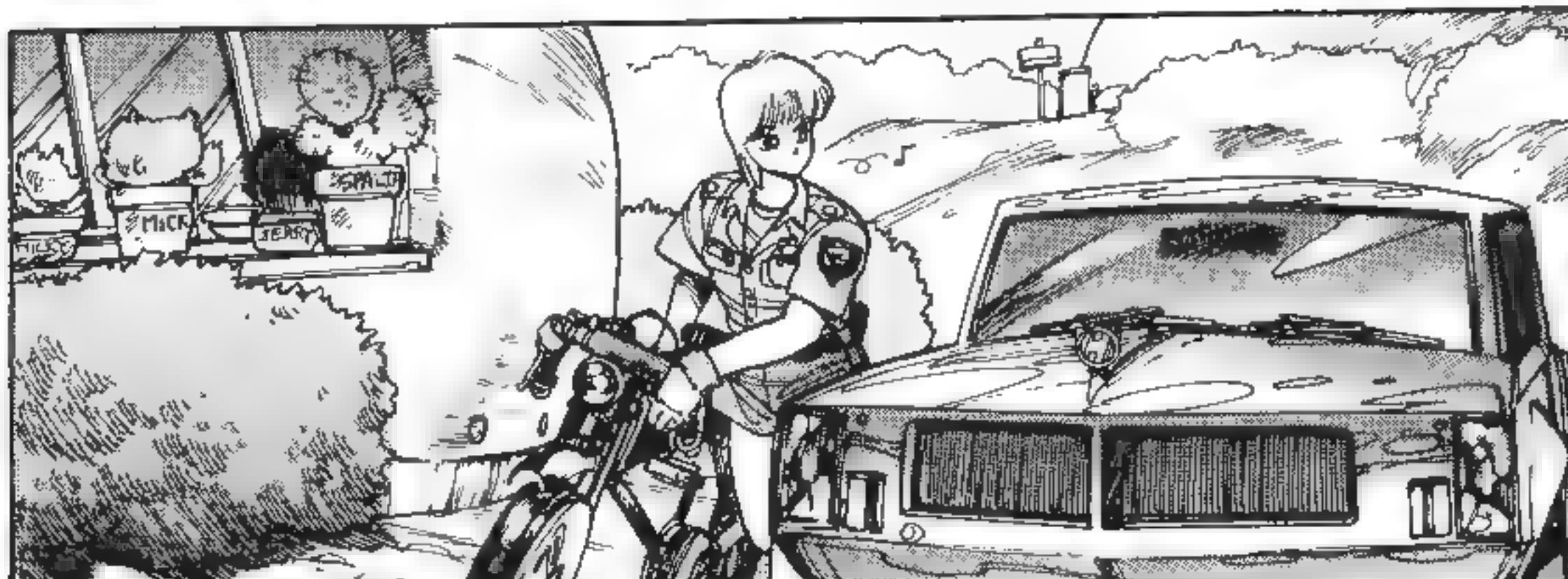


WELL,  
YOU  
WON'T  
FIND A  
WORSE-  
TASTING  
BUG  
THAN  
ME!

ZRCH

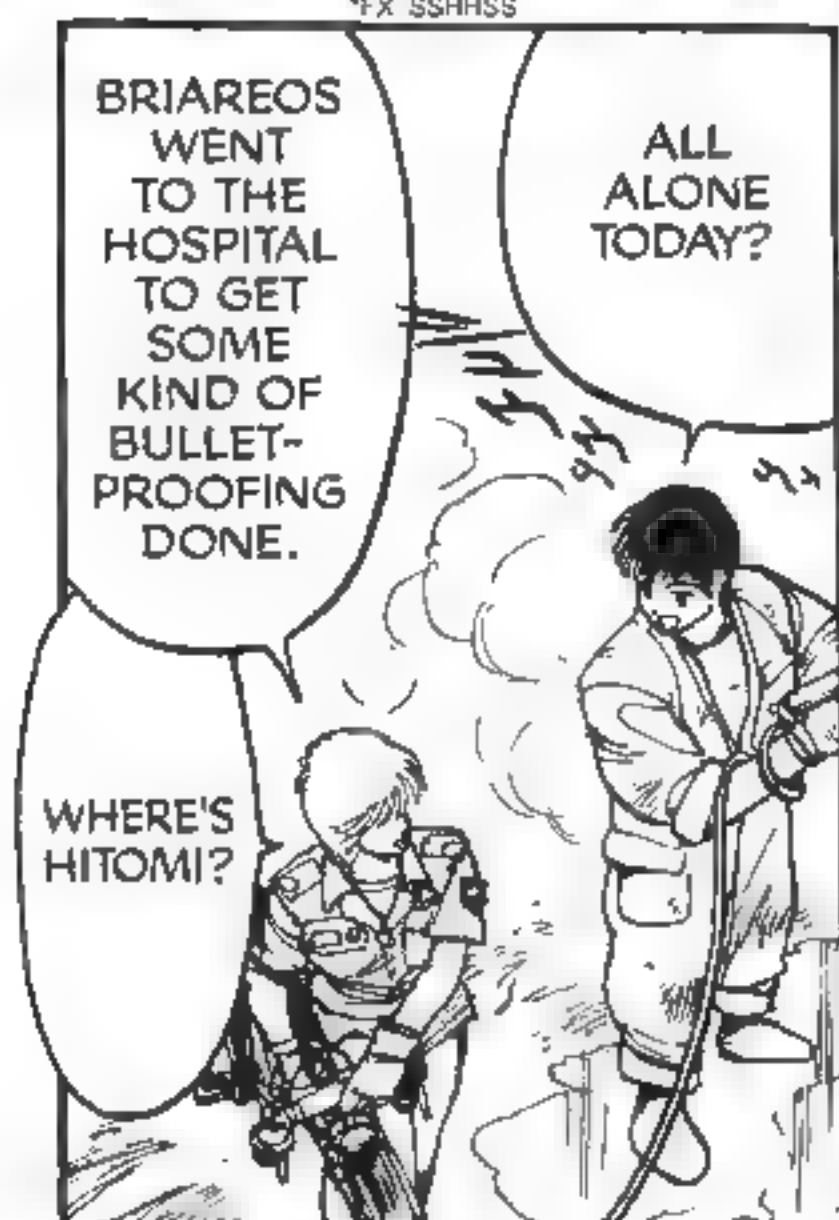
LOOKS  
LIKE AN  
INSECT-  
EATING  
MUSH-  
ROOM.

SO  
THIS IS  
HITOMI'S  
NEW  
PLACE...  
HMMM.



\*FX SSSHSS

FX KOHAK



BRIAREOS  
WENT  
TO THE  
HOSPITAL  
TO GET  
SOME  
KIND OF  
BULLET-  
PROOFING  
DONE.

ALL  
ALONE  
TODAY?

WHERE'S  
HITOMI?

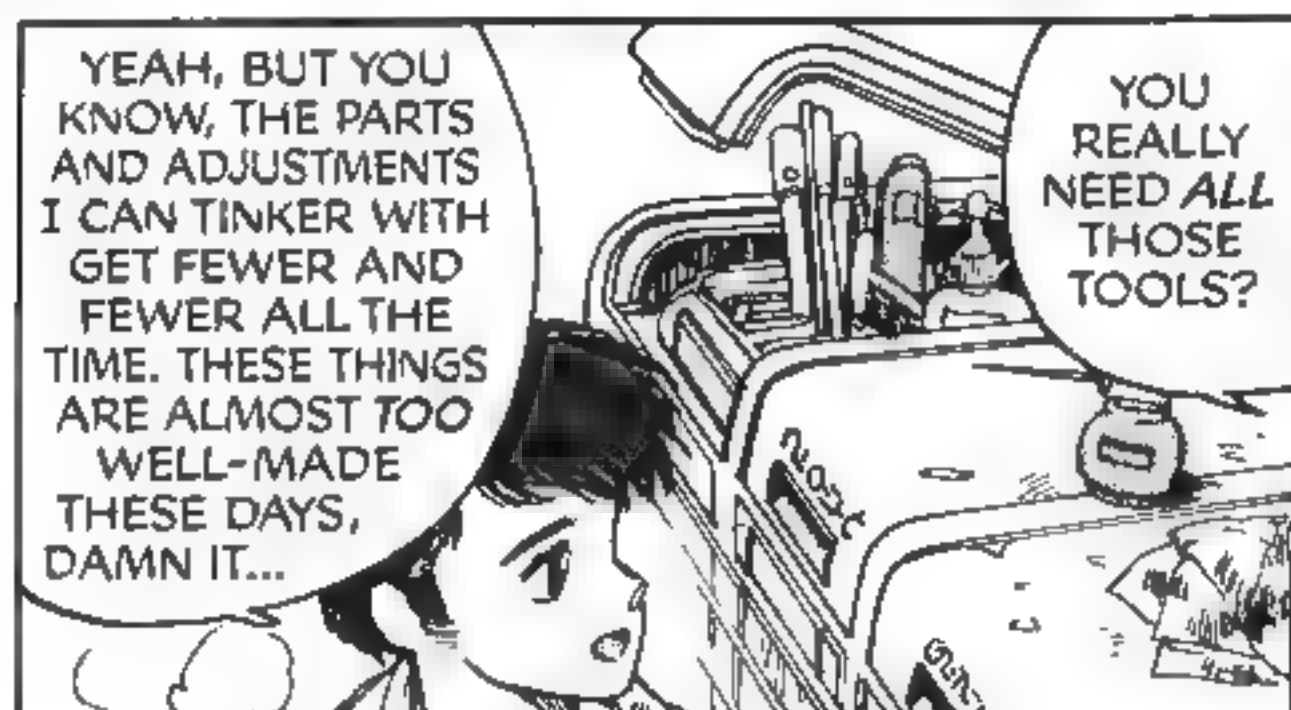
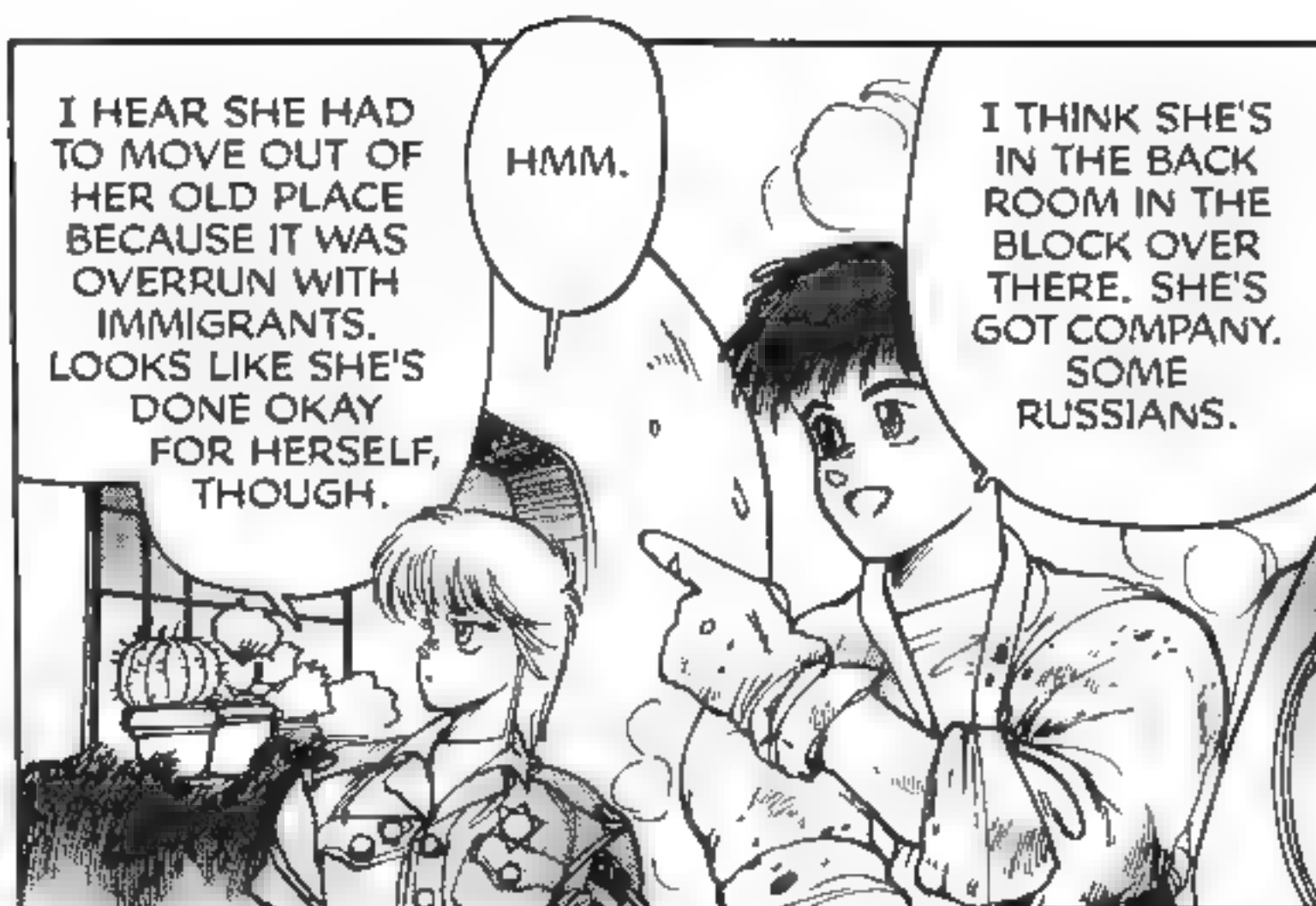


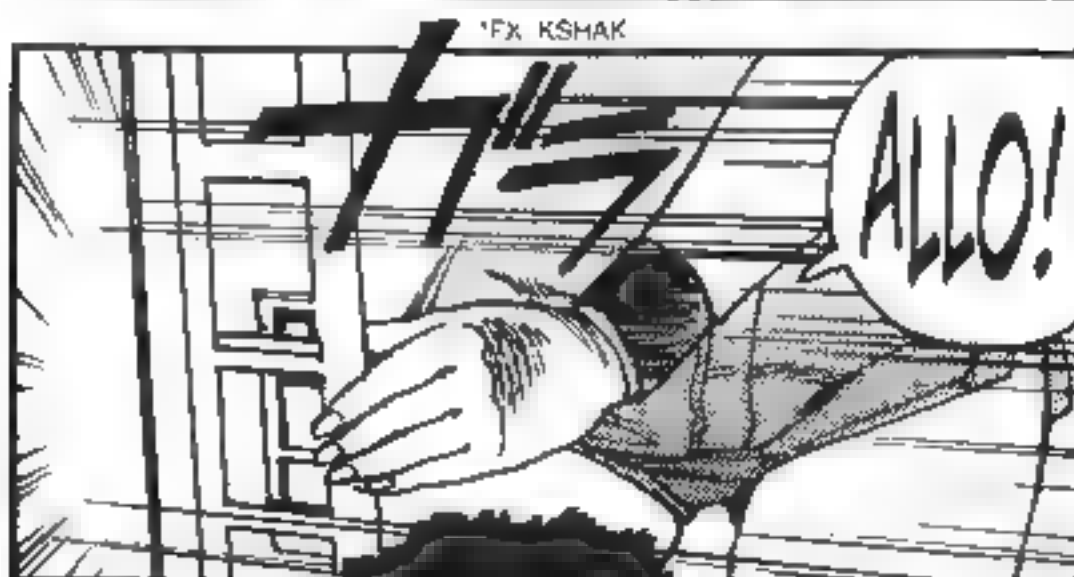
HEY,  
DEUNAN!  
GOOD  
TO SEE  
YOU!

HI!

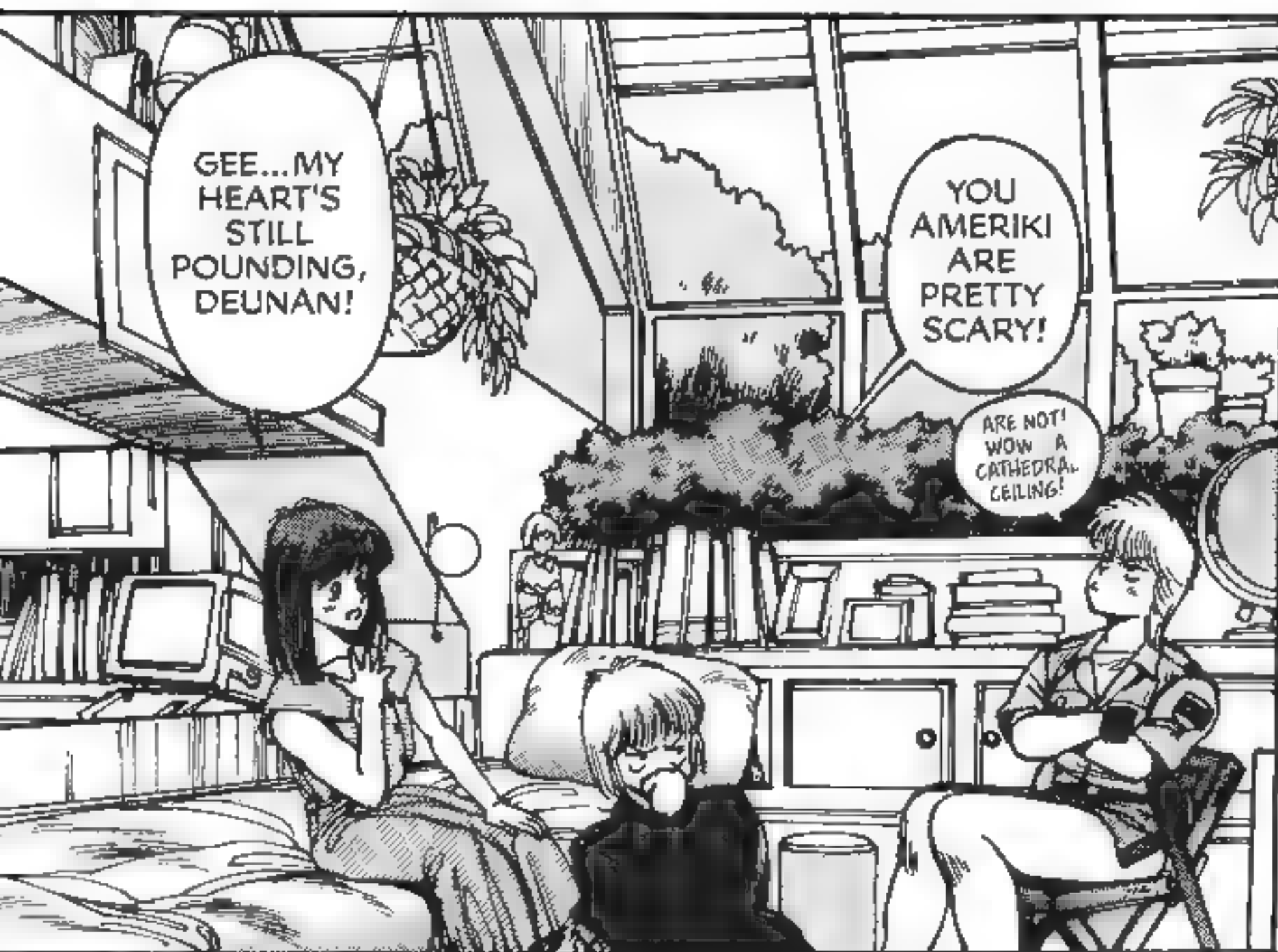
\*FX SSSHSSSS











GEE... MY  
HEART'S  
STILL  
POUNDING,  
DEUNAN!

YOU  
AMERIKA  
ARE  
PRETTY  
SCARY!

ARE NOT!  
WOW A  
CATHEDRAL  
CEILING!

WELL,  
GEE...

SHE WAS  
POSITIVELY  
LURKING  
BY THE  
DOOR, NOT  
MAKING A  
SOUND...



THIS CITY'S  
SO PEACEFUL,  
YOU'RE  
BOUND TO  
LET DOWN  
YOUR GUARD  
SOMETIMES.

DON'T  
FEEL  
BAD.

I'M  
LUCKY  
SHE  
WAS A  
POLICE  
OFFI-  
CER...

WOW... YOU  
ORIGINALS  
ARE SO  
LUCKY!  
YOU HEAL  
SO FAST,  
YOU CAN'T  
SEE THE  
REPAIR  
MARKS...

THEY SAID IT'S THE  
SAME TECHNOLOGY  
THEY USE FOR LIFE  
EXTENSIONS. THEY  
DOCS KEPT TALKING  
ABOUT SOUND  
WAVES, VIBRATIONS,  
HOW IMPORTANT  
RHYTHM IS... IT WAS  
LIKE THEY WERE  
DISCUSSING  
MUSIC.

I'M JUST  
WEARING  
THIS  
FOR FUN.  
WE'VE  
GOT A  
BRIEFING  
AT FIVE.

HEH...

I'VE  
NEVER  
SEEN  
THAT  
UNI-  
FORM  
BEFORE.



AND  
YOUR  
CHEEK!  
THE  
SCARS  
ARE ALL  
GONE!





I'M MASHA GAVILOV THE THIRD. SHE'S MY BODYGUARD, MISS MERANPOUS. YOU MUST BE THE FAMOUS DEUNAN KNUTE...?

OH! SORRY, SORRY!

AREN'T YOU GOING TO INTRODUCE US?

AHEM!

FX KLAK



OF COURSE!

SO YOU'RE ASSERTING YOUR CIVIL RIGHTS?

SHE GOT STRANDED HERE DURING THE WAR, WHILE SHE WAS ON A WORLD TOUR. THAT'S WHEN SHE LEARNED OUR LANGUAGE.

NO...THE OUTSKIRTS OF MOSCOW!

YOU'RE FROM THE EAST BLOC? ENGLAND, MAYBE?



IT'S A U.S./AFRICAN BLACK SUPPORT GROUP FORMED RIGHT AFTER THE WAR. IN SOUTH AFRICA THEY CALL THEM "THE BLACK NAZIS," BUT THEY'RE NOT REALLY THAT KIND OF ORGANIZATION AT ALL.

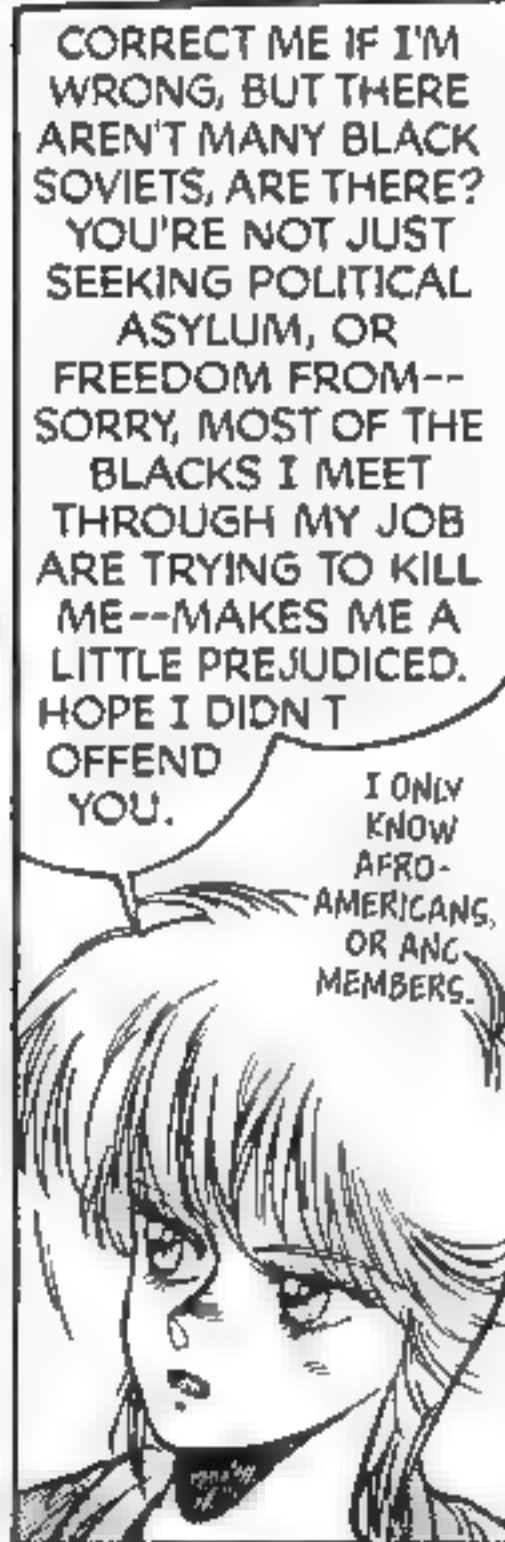
EUMENIDES...?

SHE'S FROM UPPER ZAIRE

CHAK



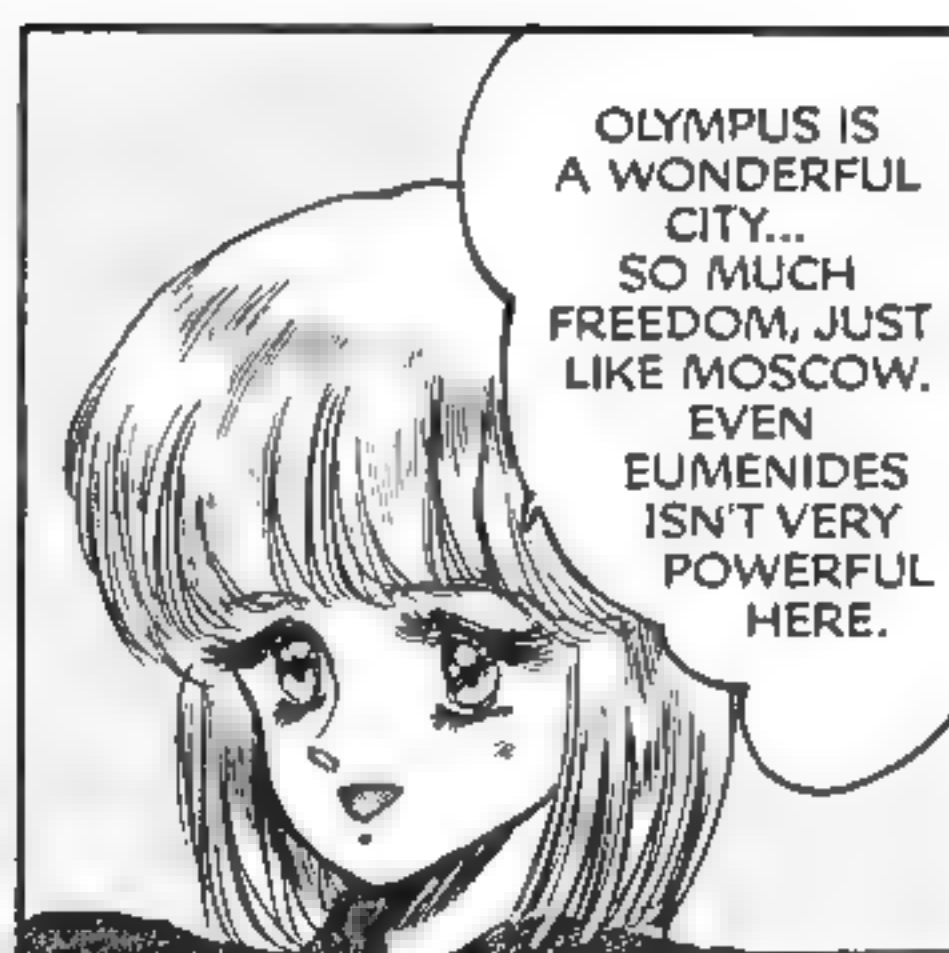
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I WENT TO MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, I'VE HEARD IT ALL. BUT YOU'D BE SMART NOT TO TALK THAT WAY ON THE OUTSIDE--IF SOMEONE FROM EUMENIDES HEARD YOU...



CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT THERE AREN'T MANY BLACK SOVIETS, ARE THERE? YOU'RE NOT JUST SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM, OR FREEDOM FROM-- SORRY, MOST OF THE BLACKS I MEET THROUGH MY JOB ARE TRYING TO KILL ME--MAKES ME A LITTLE PREJUDICED. HOPE I DIDN'T OFFEND YOU.

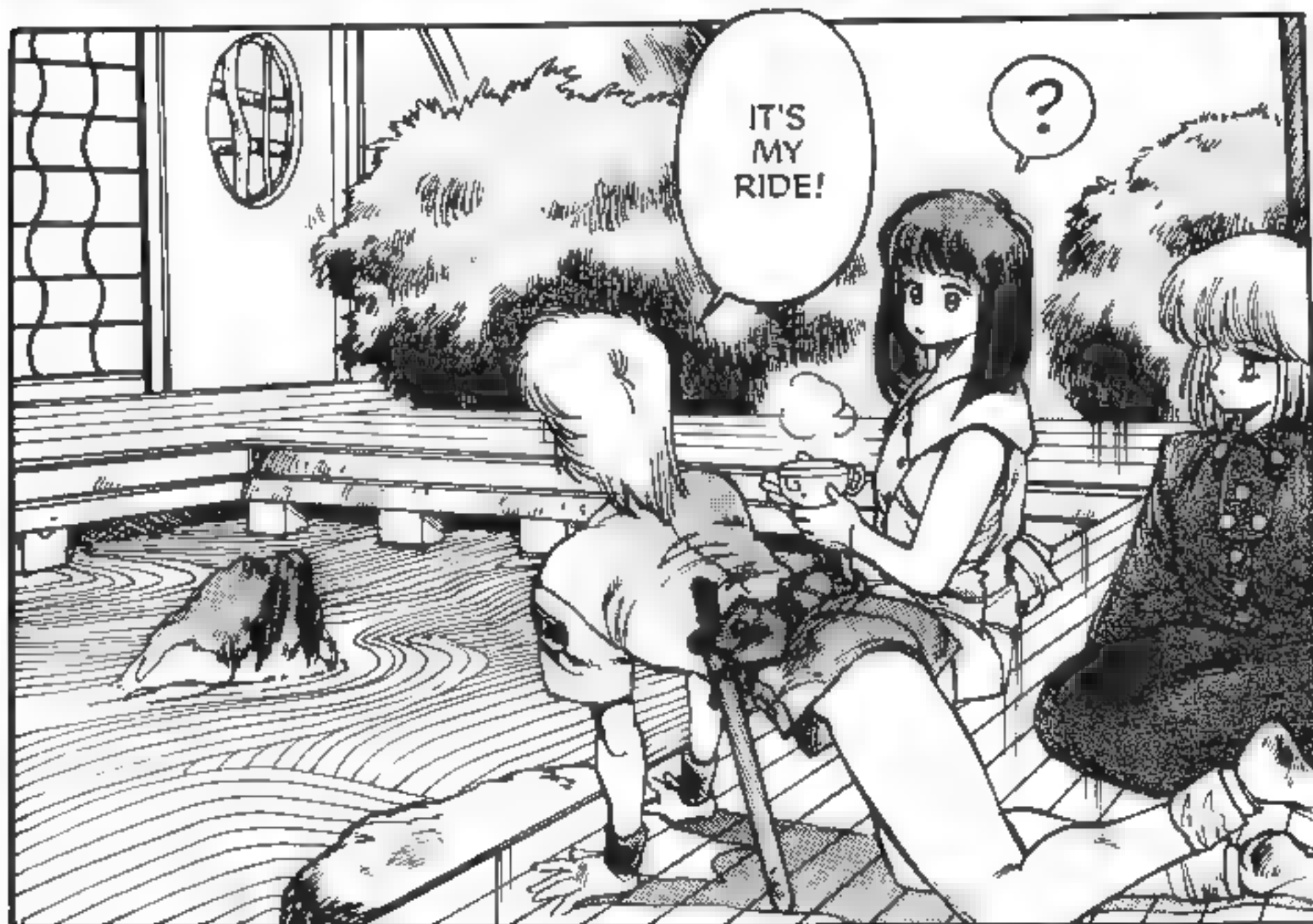
I ONLY KNOW AFRO-AMERICANS, OR ANC MEMBERS.





*De gustibus non est disputandum.*



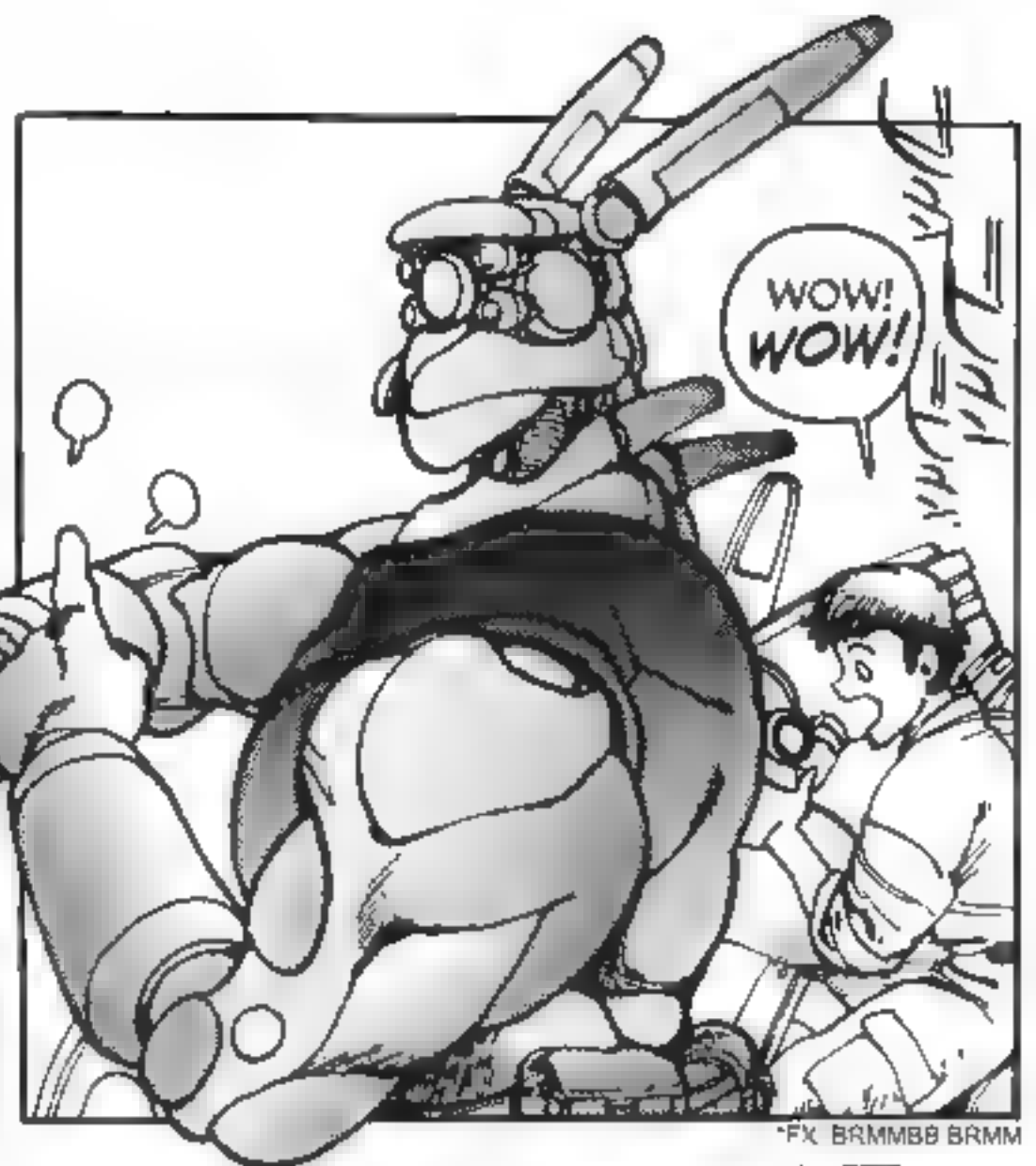




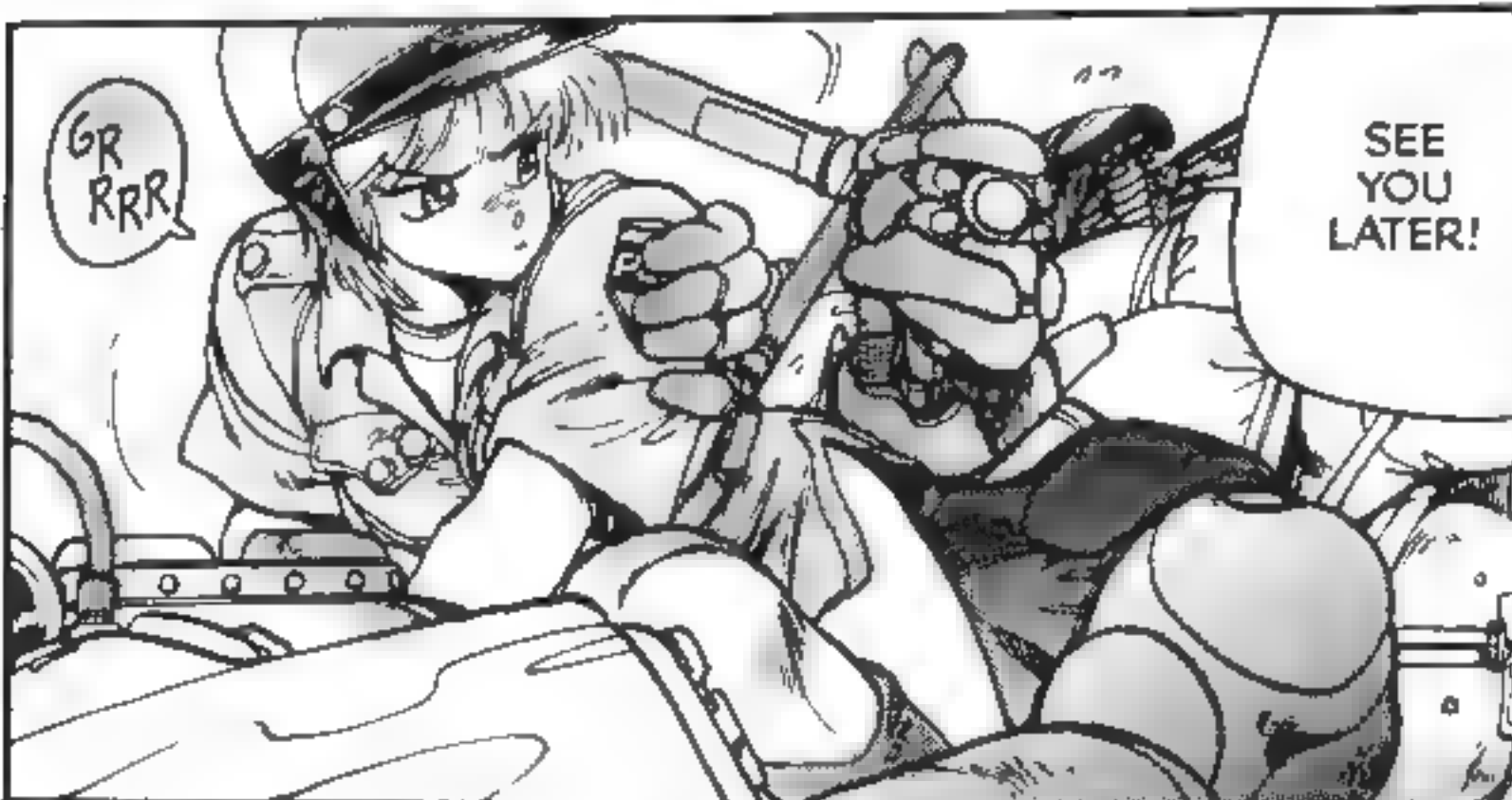


"POSTER: LIFE IS SHORT THE ART LONG"





FX KYJ KYJ KYL

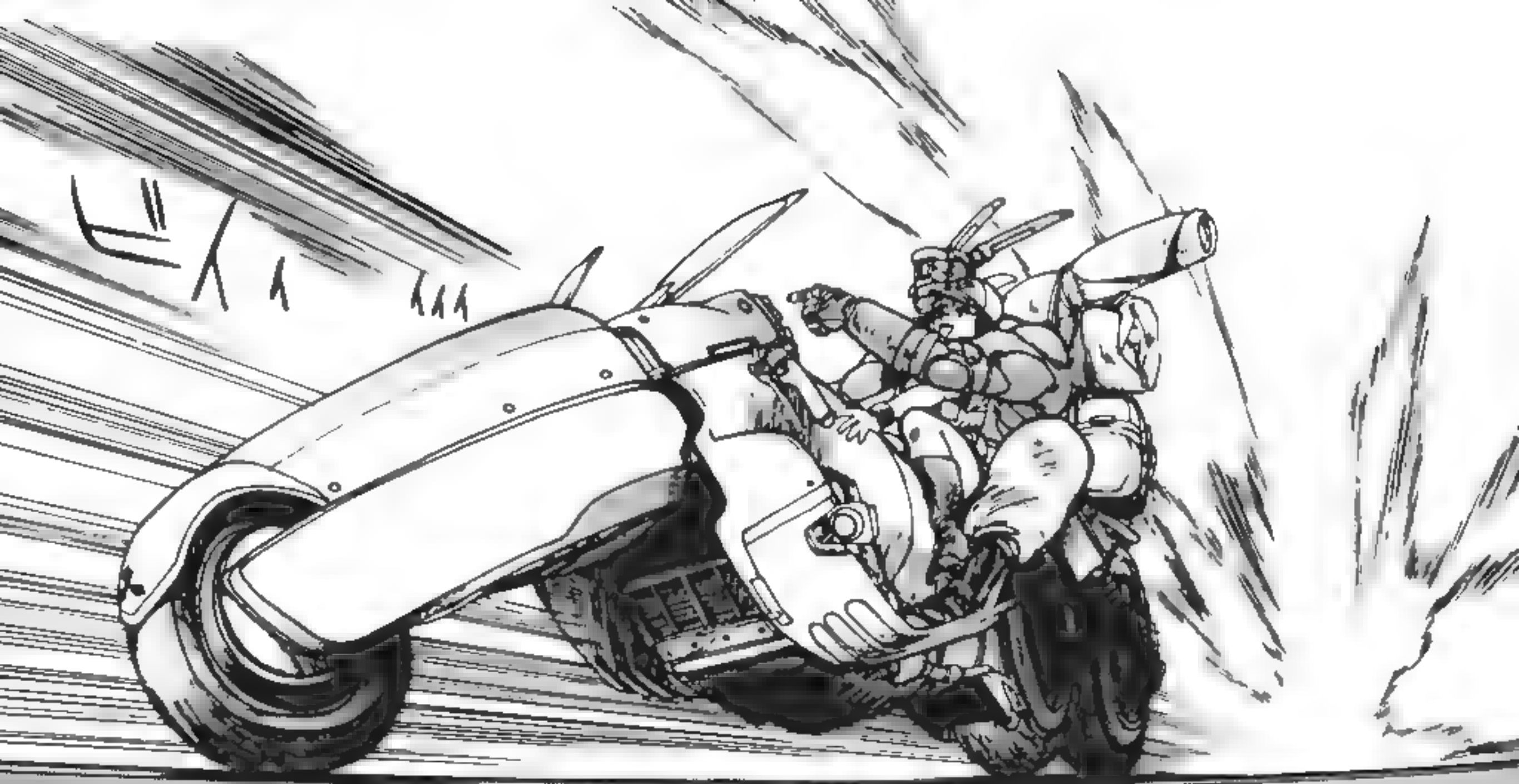


FX VRMMMMMM



FX GYAAAAA



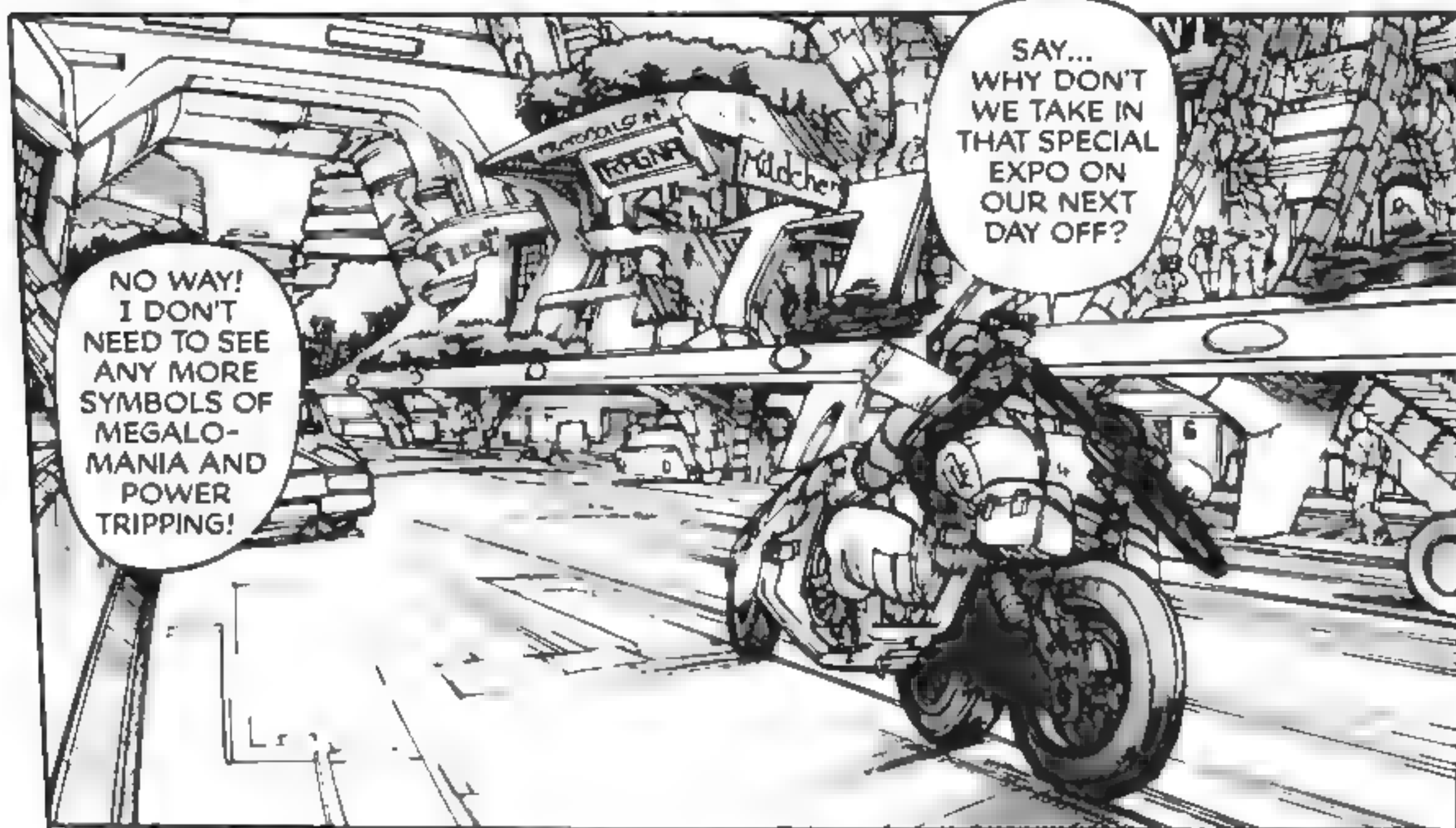


FX BHHHSSN

HEE, HEE,  
HEE...  
YOU LIKE  
'EM?

NOT  
AS  
GOOD  
AS YOUR  
LEGS!

THAT  
COLOR  
LOOKS  
GOOD ON  
YOU!

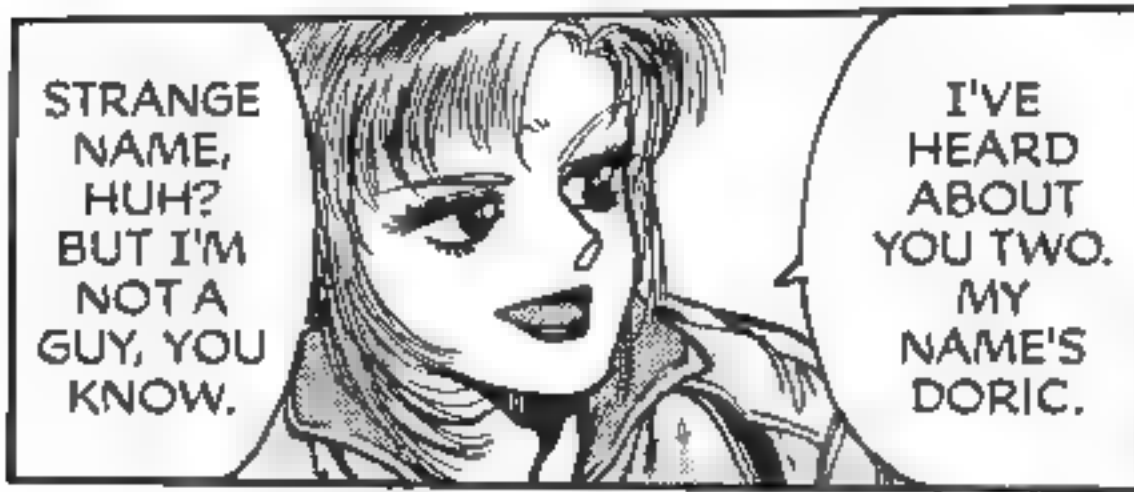
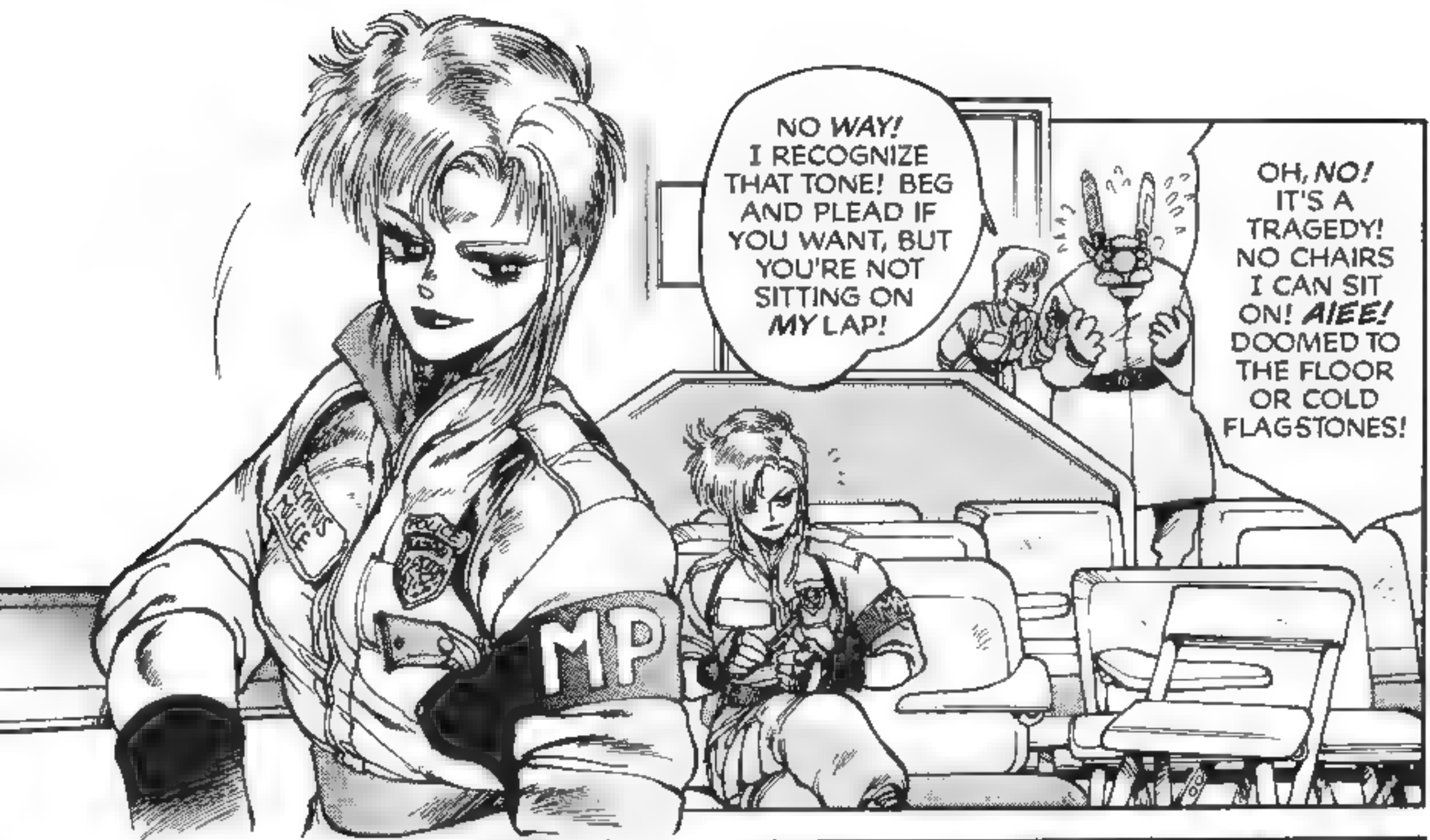


NO WAY!  
I DON'T  
NEED TO SEE  
ANY MORE  
SYMBOLS OF  
MEGALO-  
MANIA AND  
POWER  
TRIPPING!

SAY...  
WHY DON'T  
WE TAKE IN  
THAT SPECIAL  
EXPO ON  
OUR NEXT  
DAY OFF?





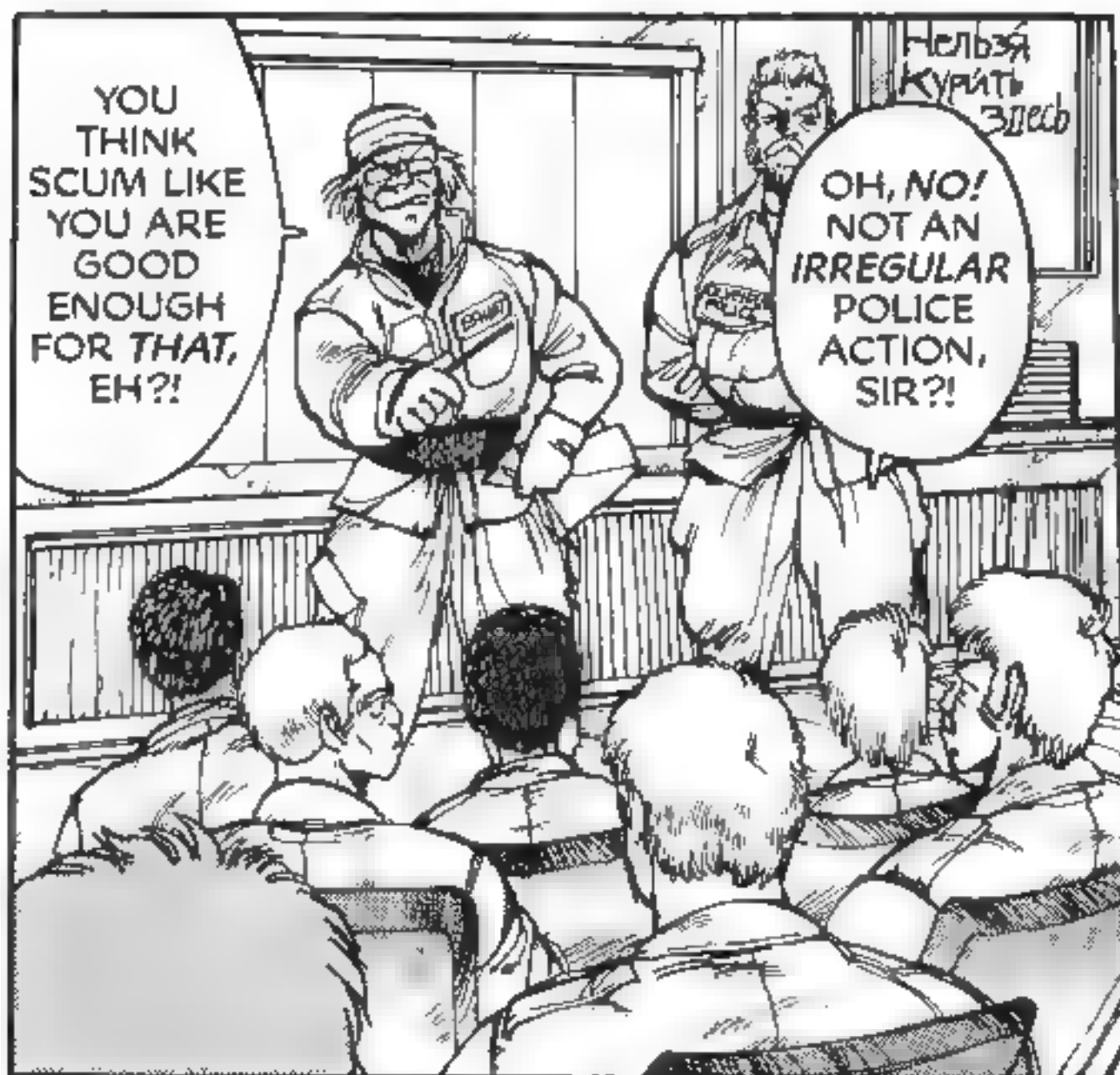


\*FX TLNK





\*FX TAK TAK TAK TAK







BUT UNDER MY ORGANIZATION, USING MY TACTICS, YOU CAN PULL OFF ANY OPERATION IN THE WORLD!

LANCE!

INDIVIDUALLY, YOU'RE USELESS-- JUST A BUNCH OF LOUSY COPS.

I'M THE ONE WHO PICKED YOU SORRY LOT OF JACKASSES OUT OF ALL THE SQUADS IN ESWAT.

\*FX. TAK TAK TAK TAK



GIVE IT UP! HALF OF 'EM ARE LESBIANS!

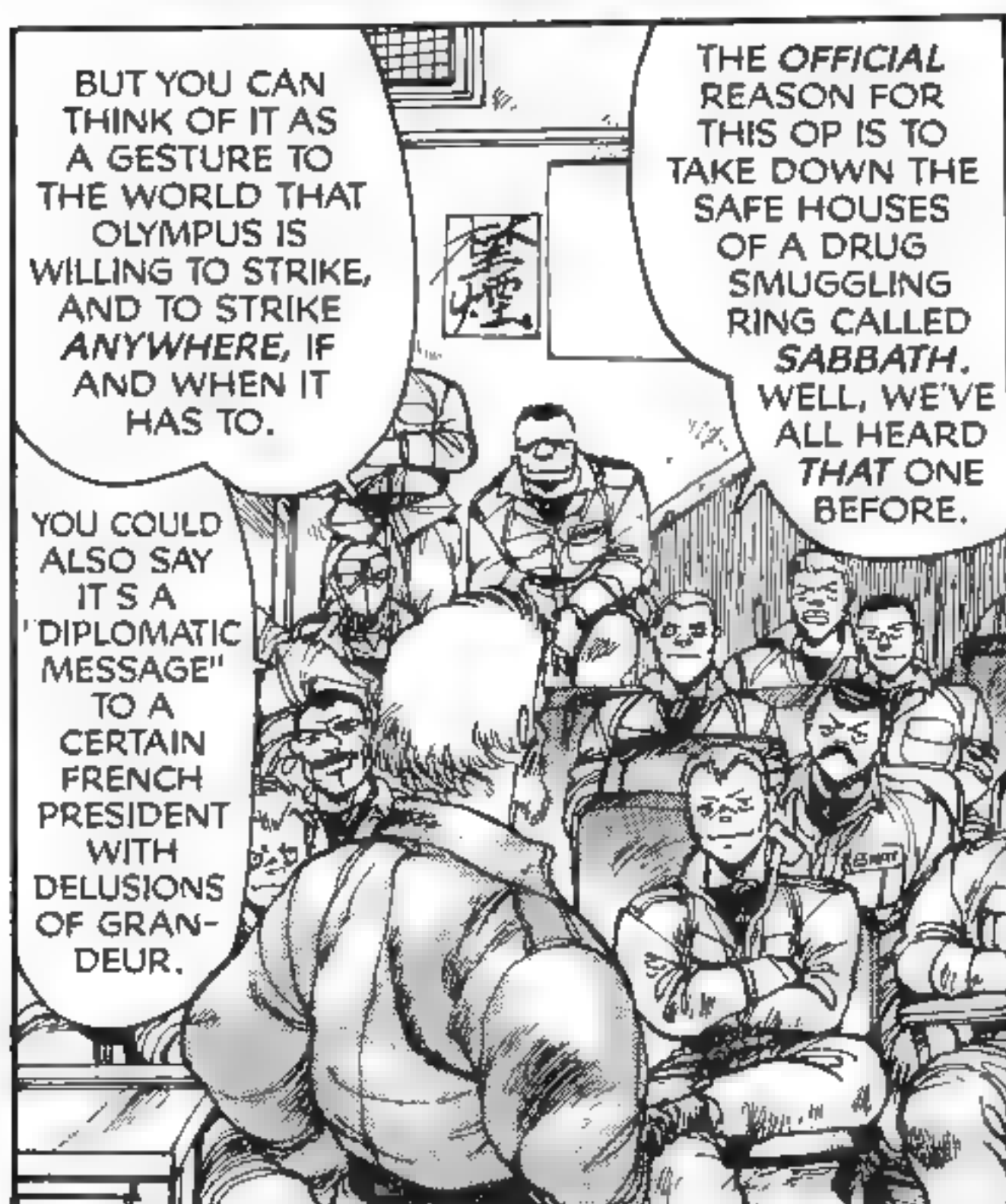
NO SHIT? WELL, HALF AREN'T!

ALL RIGHT! I REALLY GO FOR THOSE FRENCH BABES!



WHEN THE ORDER COMES, YOU'LL ONLY HAVE TEN MINUTES TO CATCH YOUR PLANE TO FRANCE.

WE'VE GOT A WEEK BEFORE THE OP. USE IT TO BUILD YOURSELVES INTO A TEAM.



BUT YOU CAN THINK OF IT AS A GESTURE TO THE WORLD THAT OLYMPUS IS WILLING TO STRIKE, AND TO STRIKE ANYWHERE, IF AND WHEN IT HAS TO.

YOU COULD ALSO SAY IT'S A 'DIPLOMATIC MESSAGE' TO A CERTAIN FRENCH PRESIDENT WITH DELUSIONS OF GRAN-DEUR.

THE OFFICIAL REASON FOR THIS OP IS TO TAKE DOWN THE SAFE HOUSES OF A DRUG SMUGGLING RING CALLED **SABBATH**. WELL, WE'VE ALL HEARD THAT ONE BEFORE.

RIGHT NOW, OLYMPUS HAS ABOUT EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE LAST NUKES UNDER LOCK AND KEY...BUT FRANCE IS ONE OF THE EXCEPTIONS.

FORTUNATELY, BACK IN THE LAST WAR NONE OF THE NUCLEAR POWERS STEPPED ON EACH OTHER'S TOES. THOSE NASTY LITTLE FIRE-CRACKERS ARE STILL DECAYING ON THE SHELVES, BUT THERE'S FEWER ALL THE TIME.



\*Sabbath. the day of rest in Judaism (from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday). That's not what it means here



NO GUGES LAND-MATES THIS TIME-- WE'LL BE USING ORCS.

HERE ARE YOUR TEAM LISTS. I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR TACTICAL DIRECTIVES AFTER OUR UNDER-COVER AGENTS REPORT IN.



EH? YOU WERE IN ON THAT OP? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE THAI ECONOMY--?

THAT'S BRI



DRUGS, HUH? THAT'S ONE THING YOU CAN'T GET RID OF EVEN IF YOU BURN DOWN ALL THE POPPY FIELDS IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE!



DIS-MISSED!

FYI, THE NAME OF THIS OPS IS BENANDANTI.\*

She's on the staff that's in sight. KEEP SMILE.

TRAINING STARTS AT 0500-- DON'T SLEEP IN!



FOOD! FOOD!

YOU HUNGRY?

ISN'T FRANCE STILL SELLING WEAPONS TO THE IRAQIS?

\*FX TUNK GTAK

\*FX GTAK

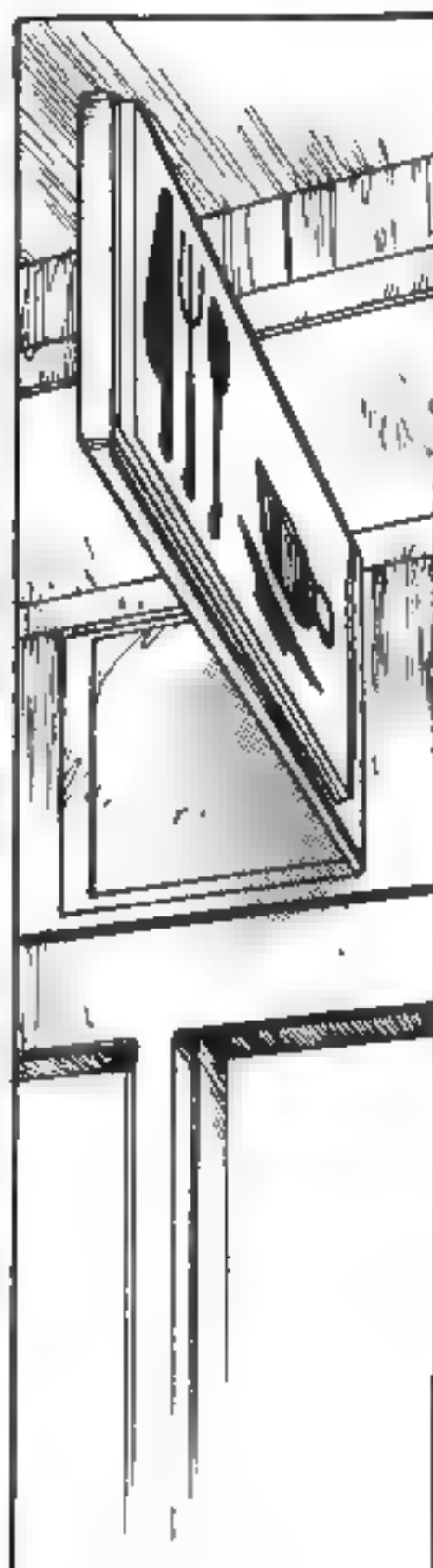
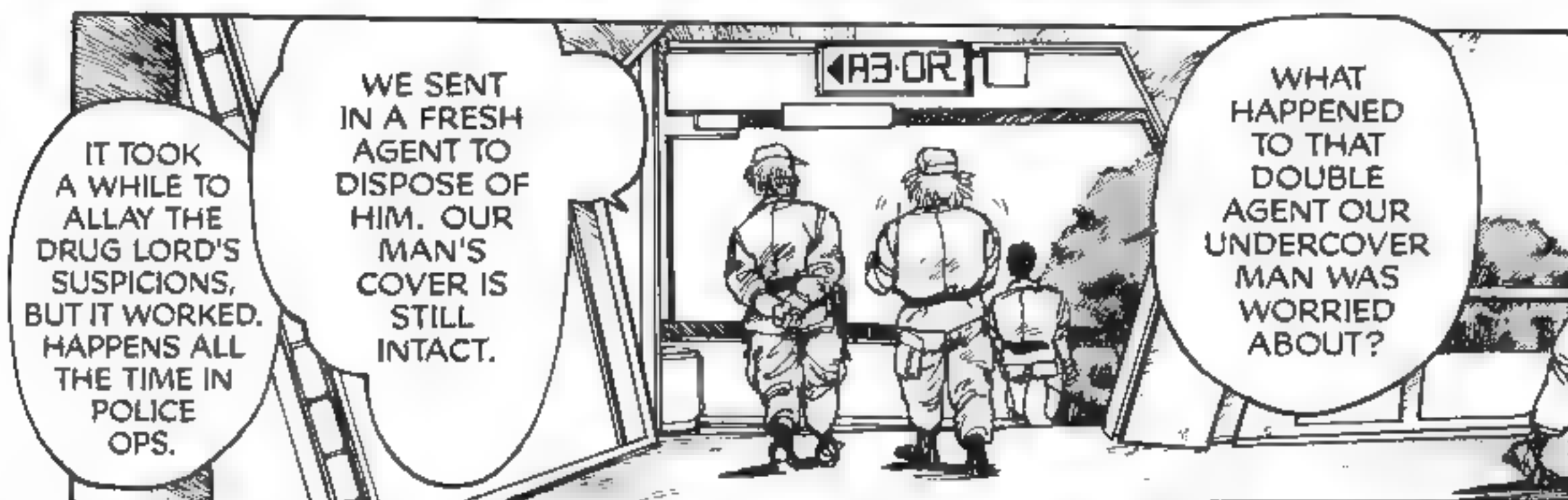
JUST AS LONG AS THEY'RE ONLY AS REAL AS THE USUAL "EVIL SPIRIT," EH?

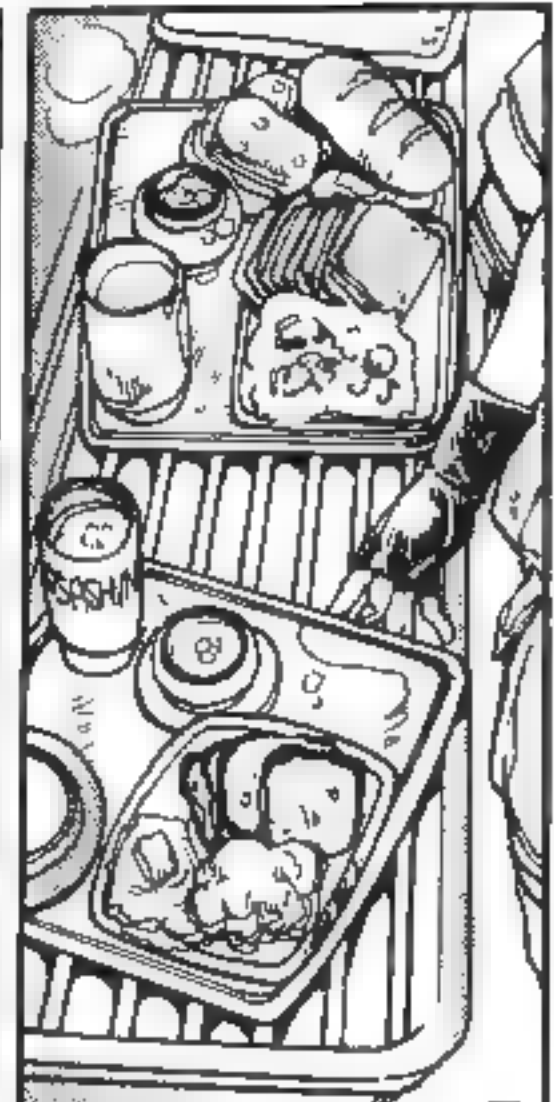
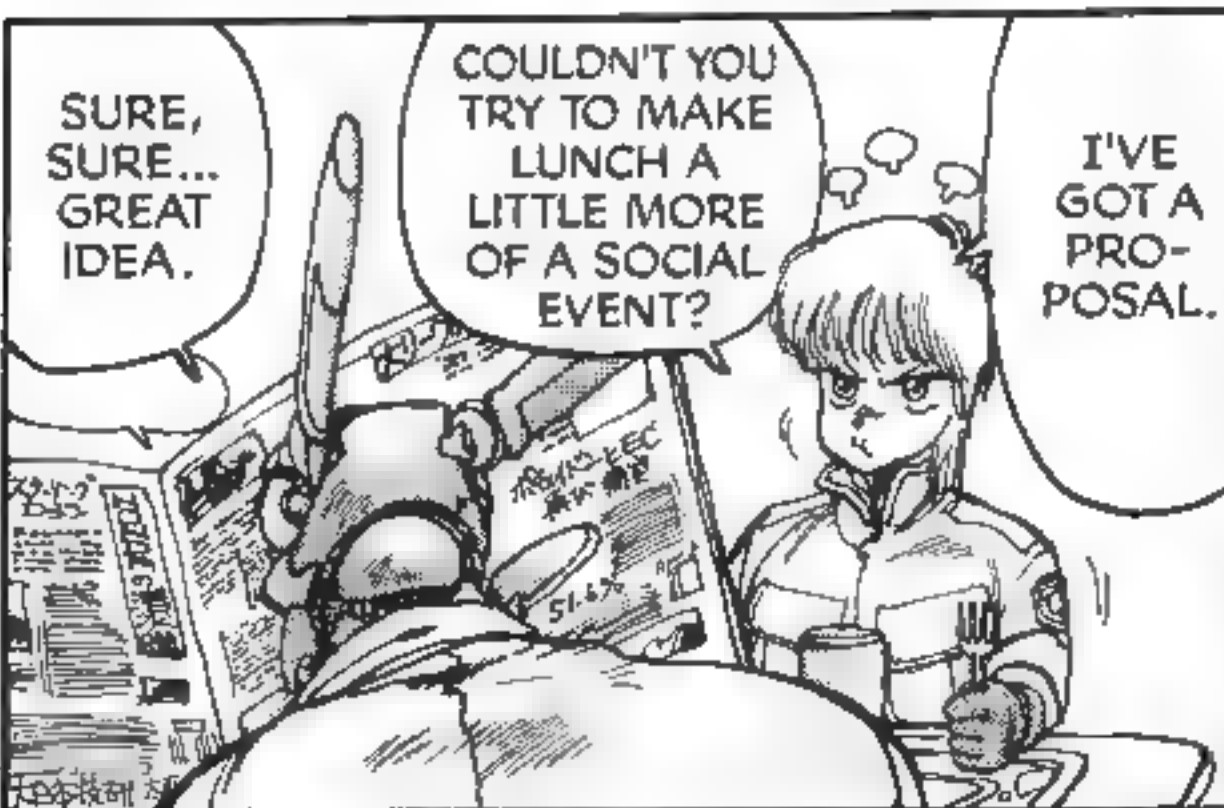
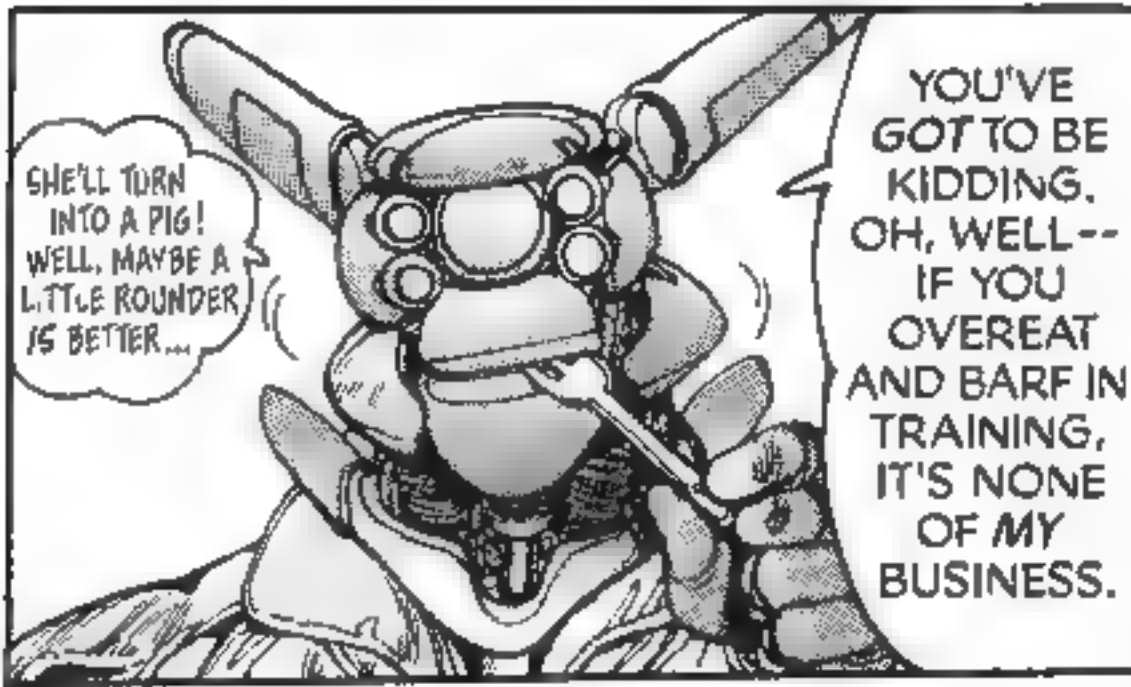
SO WHAT'S WITH THE NAME OF THIS OP? WE SUPPOSED TO BATTLE EVIL SPIRITS OR SOMETHING?

\*FX TAK

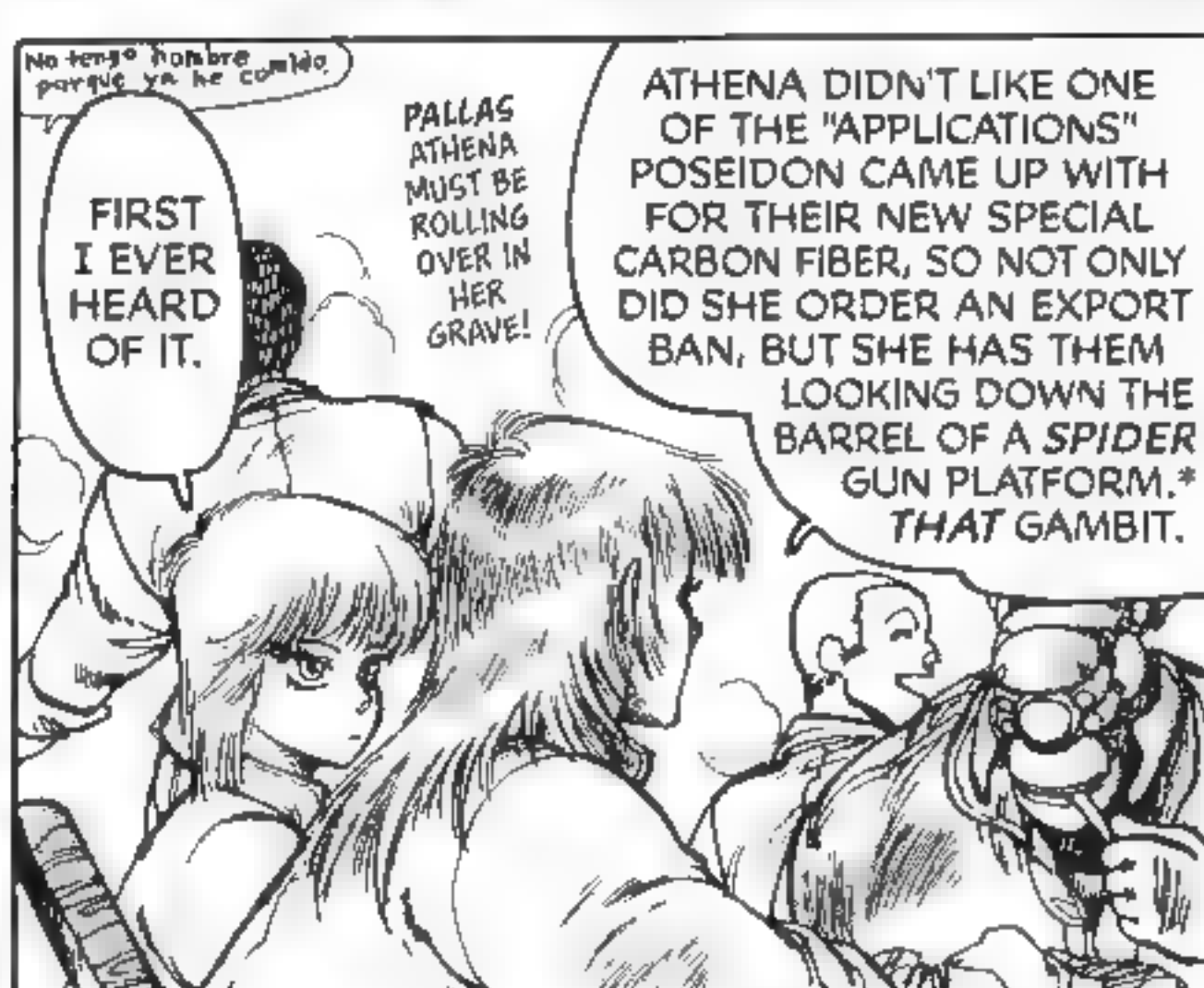
\*Taken from an ancient Eastern European legend. The name of those whose spirits set forth at the turn of the season to battle those who walk the path of evil. There is a bumper harvest when the benandanti win, and famine if they lose







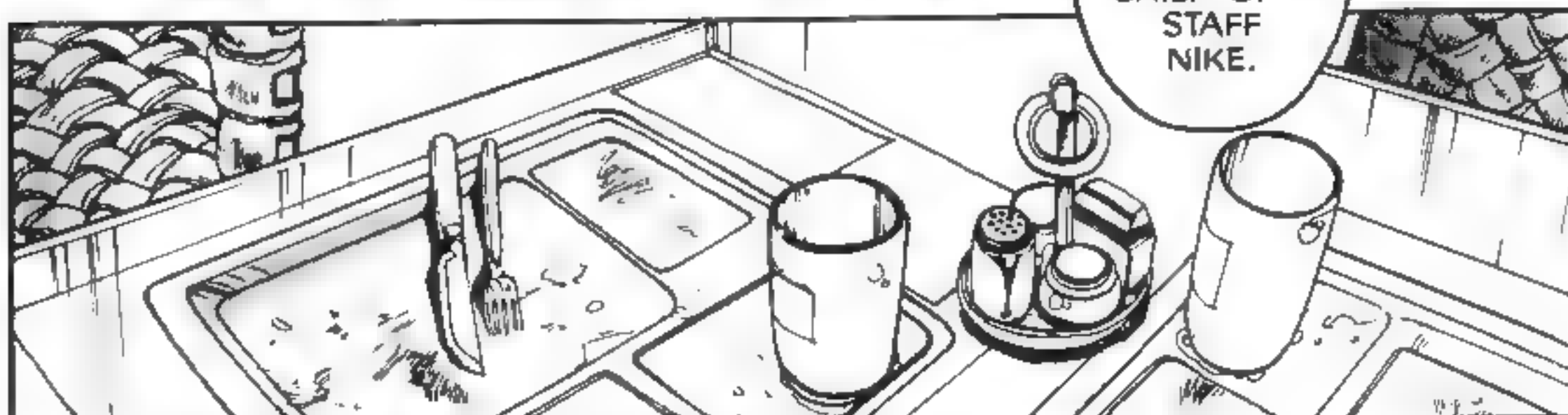
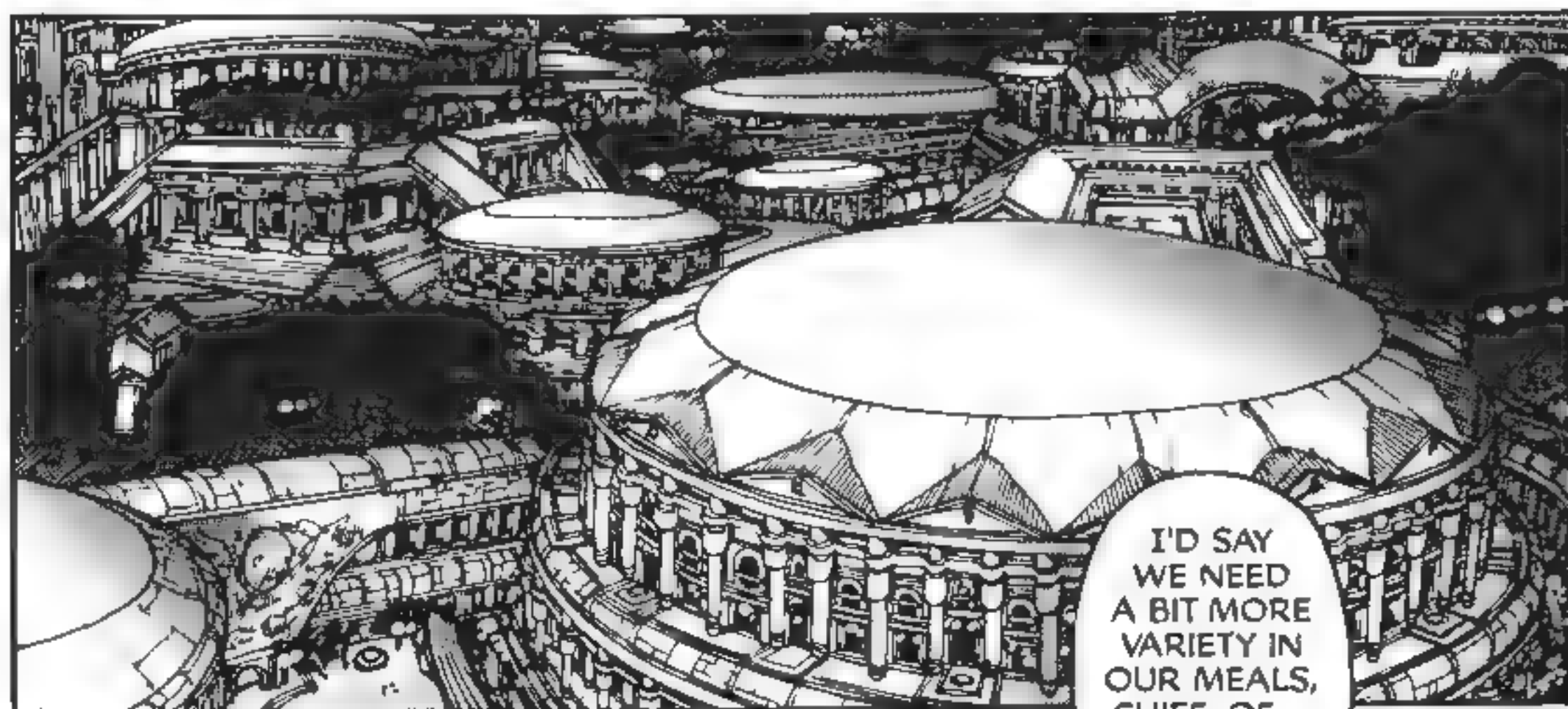




\*More about this later



Note: Perhaps "Poseidon" is a corruption of the Japanese for "made in Japan" - "Nippon seihin"



\*Organization for African Unity, headquartered in Addis Ababa Ethiopia





I HAVE A QUESTION, MAY I...?

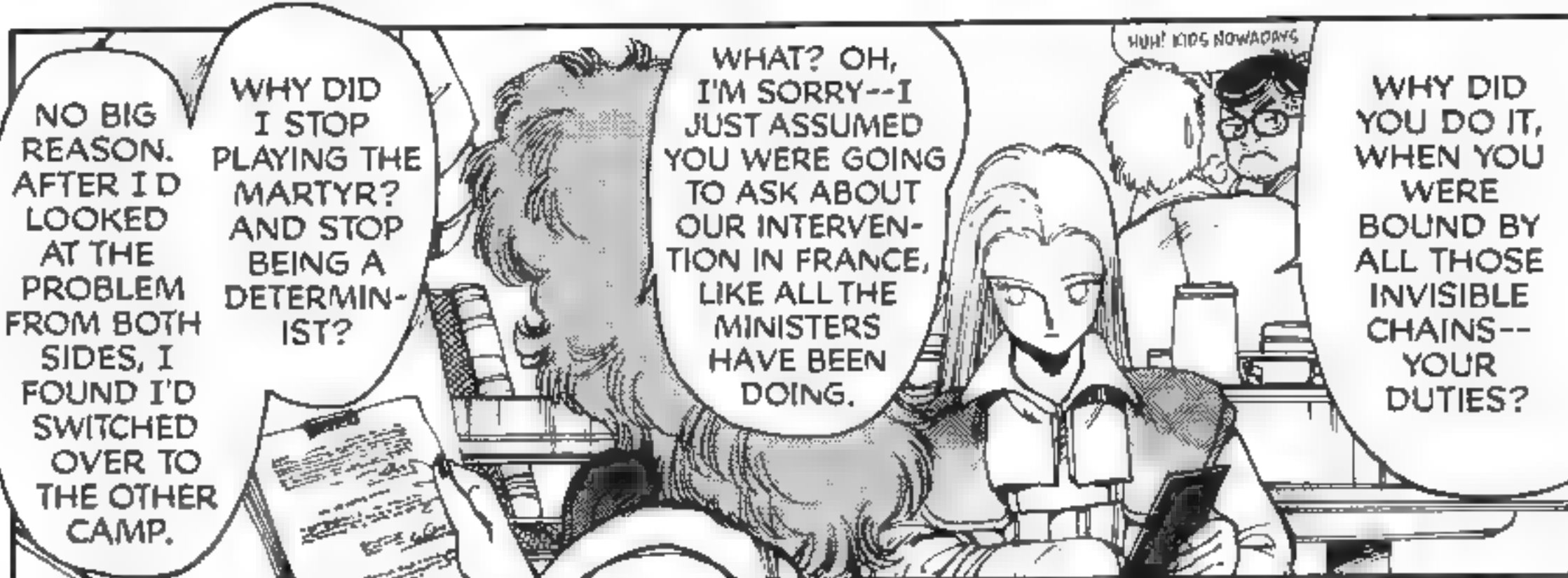
ATHENA...



THAT SOUNDS QUITE DELIGHTFUL. I KNOW THE PERFECT PLACE, NOT MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES FROM HERE. I'LL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS RIGHT AWAY.



JUST NOW AND THEN, ANYWAY. WHAT DO YOU THINK? WANT TO TRY OUT A NICE LITTLE THREE-STAR ITALIAN RESTAURANT FOR LUNCH NEXT SATURDAY?

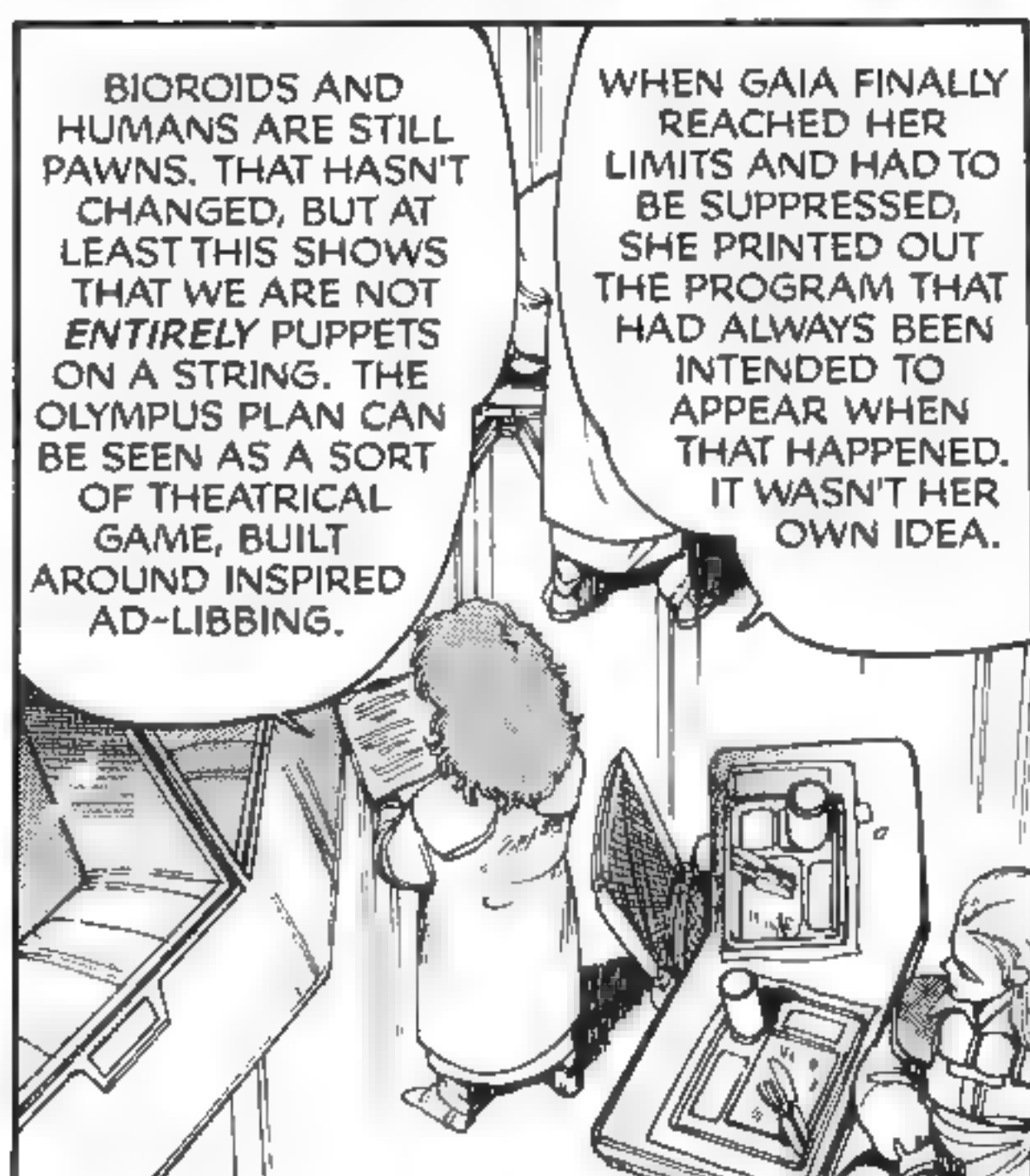


NO BIG REASON. AFTER I'D LOOKED AT THE PROBLEM FROM BOTH SIDES, I FOUND I'D SWITCHED OVER TO THE OTHER CAMP.

WHY DID I STOP PLAYING THE MARTYR? AND STOP BEING A DETERMINIST?

WHAT? OH, I'M SORRY--I JUST ASSUMED YOU WERE GOING TO ASK ABOUT OUR INTERVENTION IN FRANCE, LIKE ALL THE MINISTERS HAVE BEEN DOING.

WHY DID YOU DO IT, WHEN YOU WERE BOUND BY ALL THOSE INVISIBLE CHAINS--YOUR DUTIES?



BIOROIDS AND HUMANS ARE STILL PAWNS. THAT HASN'T CHANGED, BUT AT LEAST THIS SHOWS THAT WE ARE NOT ENTIRELY PUPPETS ON A STRING. THE OLYMPUS PLAN CAN BE SEEN AS A SORT OF THEATRICAL GAME, BUILT AROUND INSPIRED AD-LIBBING.

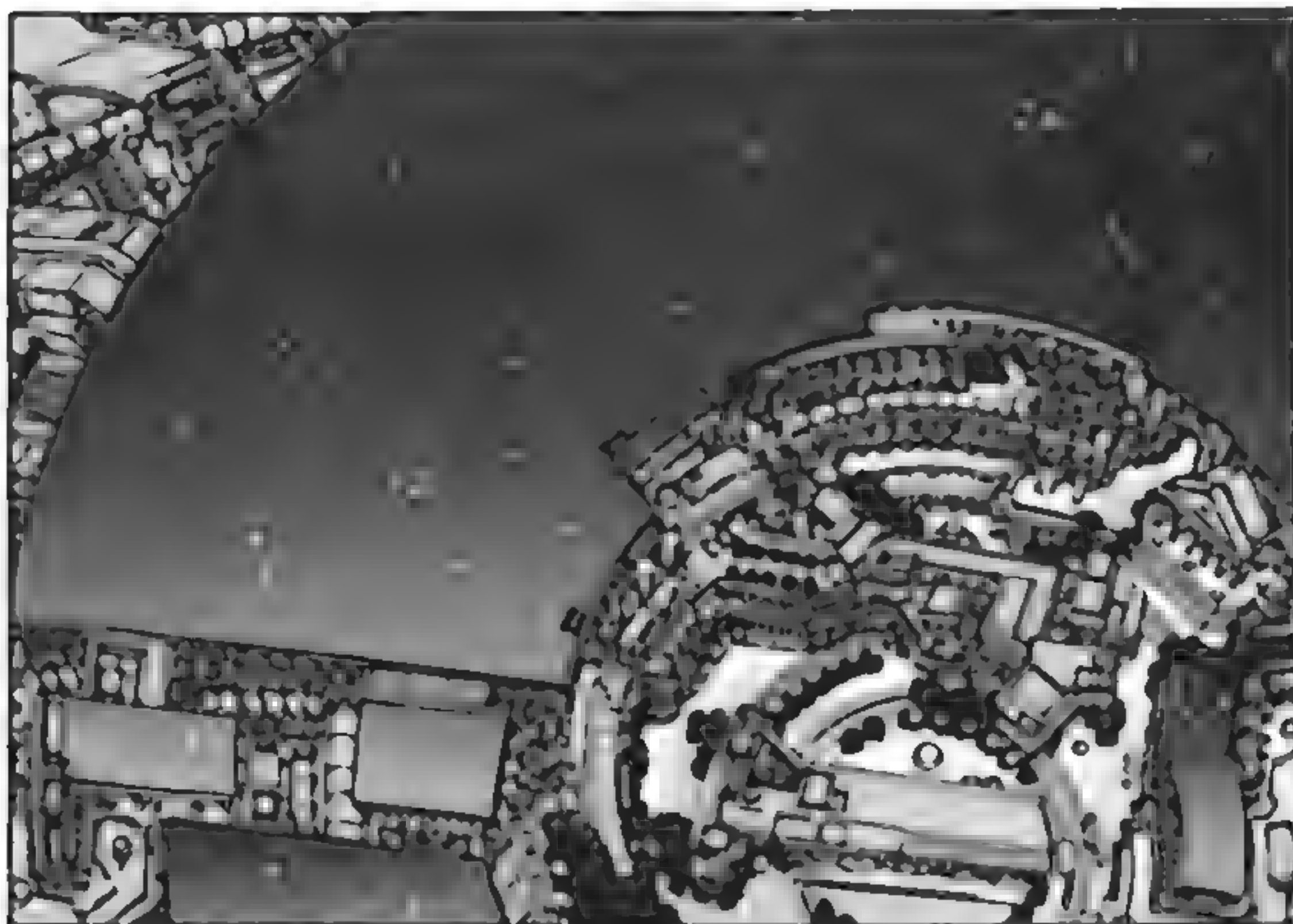
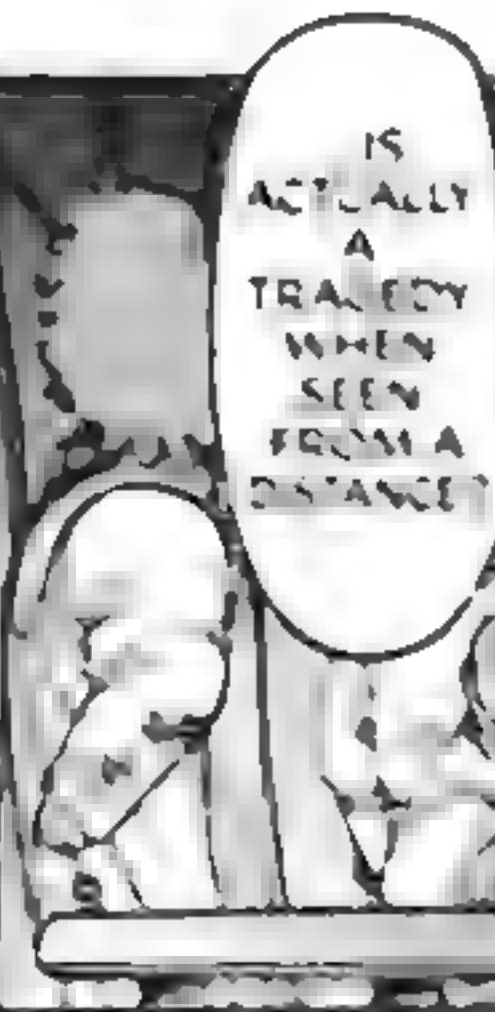
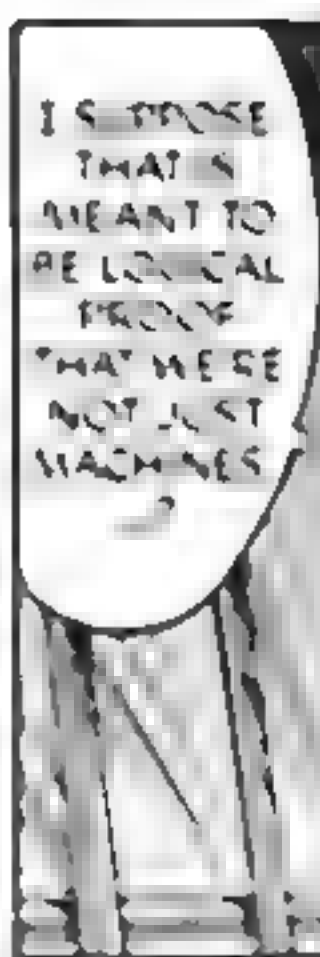
WHEN GAIA FINALLY REACHED HER LIMITS AND HAD TO BE SUPPRESSED, SHE PRINTED OUT THE PROGRAM THAT HAD ALWAYS BEEN INTENDED TO APPEAR WHEN THAT HAPPENED. IT WASN'T HER OWN IDEA.



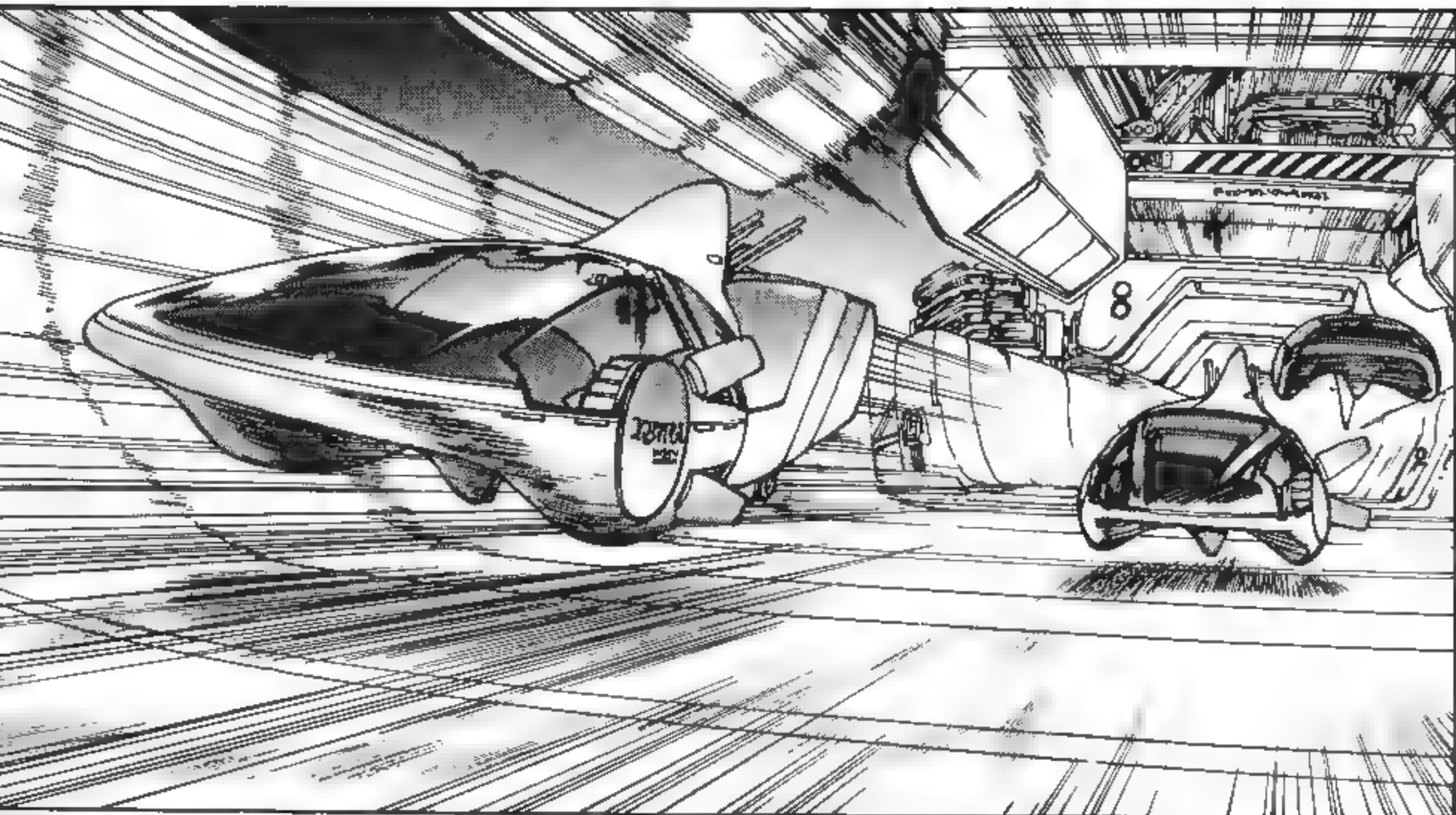
THOUGH OF COURSE, TO US BIOROIDS, HUMANS ARE THE ONLY REAL GODS.

I IMAGINE IF THE GREEK GODS WE TAKE OUR NAMES FROM SAW THE FREEDOM WE'VE GAINED FROM TECHNOLOGY--THE NEW PROMETHEUS--THEY'D HAVE QUITE A LAUGH.

I'D LIKE TO MAKE A RESERVATION. YES, I'LL HOLD







ISN'T THIS GREAT? THEY USE THIS **HERMES** MATERIAL TO FLOAT THE SPIDERS, TOO. IT WAS A DREAM OF MANKIND FOR YEARS AND YEARS TO MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS BEFORE IT WAS FINALLY INVENTED. WITHOUT HERMES, AIRCARS LIKE THIS WOULD COST A FORTUNE.

HEE  
HEE

IT WAS WORTH LIVING LONGER AFTER ALL!



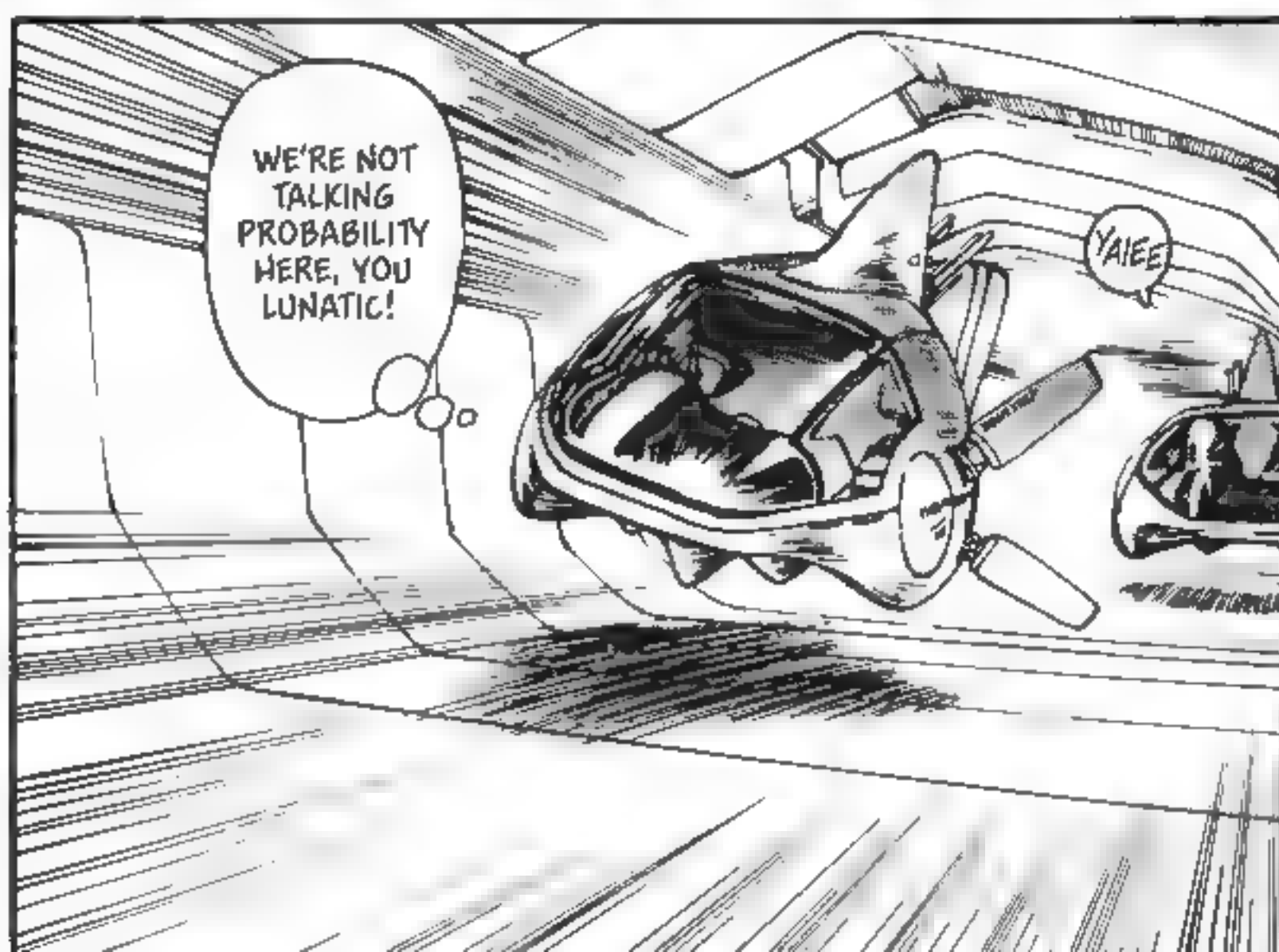
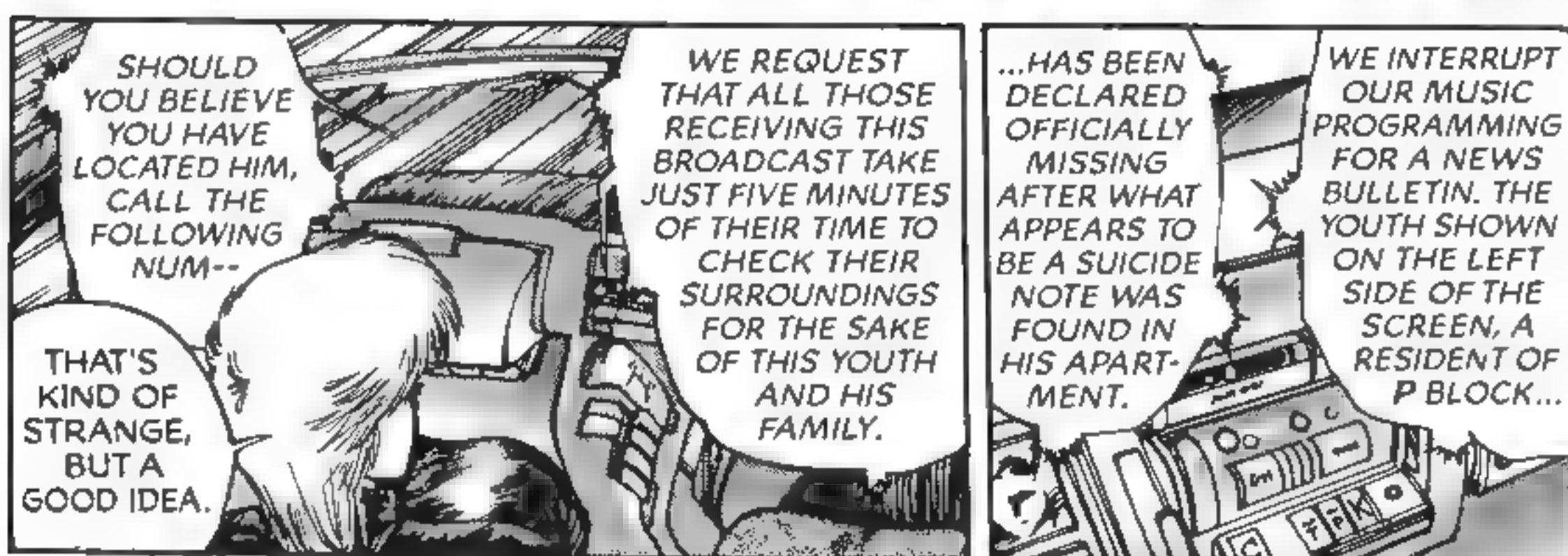
YOU'RE SUCH A SCHOLAR, DEUNAN!

WELL, I'VE BEEN HEARING NAMES LIKE THAT EVER SINCE I GOT HERE, SO I'VE BEEN STUDYING A BIT.

WASN'T HERMES THE NAME OF THE GOD WHO WAS SUCH A FAST RUNNER? YOU KNOW, FROM GREEK MYTHOLOGY?

THEY SAY THEY CAN USE IT TO LINK HOSPITALS--ALMOST INSTANT TRANSPORTATION OF TRANSPLANT ORGANS! OR TO MOVE SUPER-HEAVY LOADS, EVEN IF THEY CAN'T GET THEM COMPLETELY OFF THE GROUND.









...WHY DID YOU CALL ME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT TO GO TO A SAUNA?

SAY, DEUNAN, I KNOW THAT DAY AND NIGHT DON'T REALLY MATTER MUCH IN OLYMPUS, BUT...

\*FX BEEEEP



OH, HO, HO! YOU NAUGHTY GIRL! SO YOU DON'T HAVE AGS SYNDROME\* AFTER ALL, HMMM?

BESIDES, I HAVE TO GET ALL CLEANED UP AND READY.



I JUST WANTED TO UNLOAD SOMETHING.



AND JUST WHAT DO THEY HAVE TO DO WITH ME?!

OWW OWW!

GOOD THING I DIDN'T MENTION HIPPOPOTAMI!



THE OLD GUYS ON THE COUNCIL SAID YOU'RE LIKE A KARI, DEUNAN. BUT WHEN I SEE YOU LAUGH LIKE THAT...

"KARI" ...?

"AGS"...?



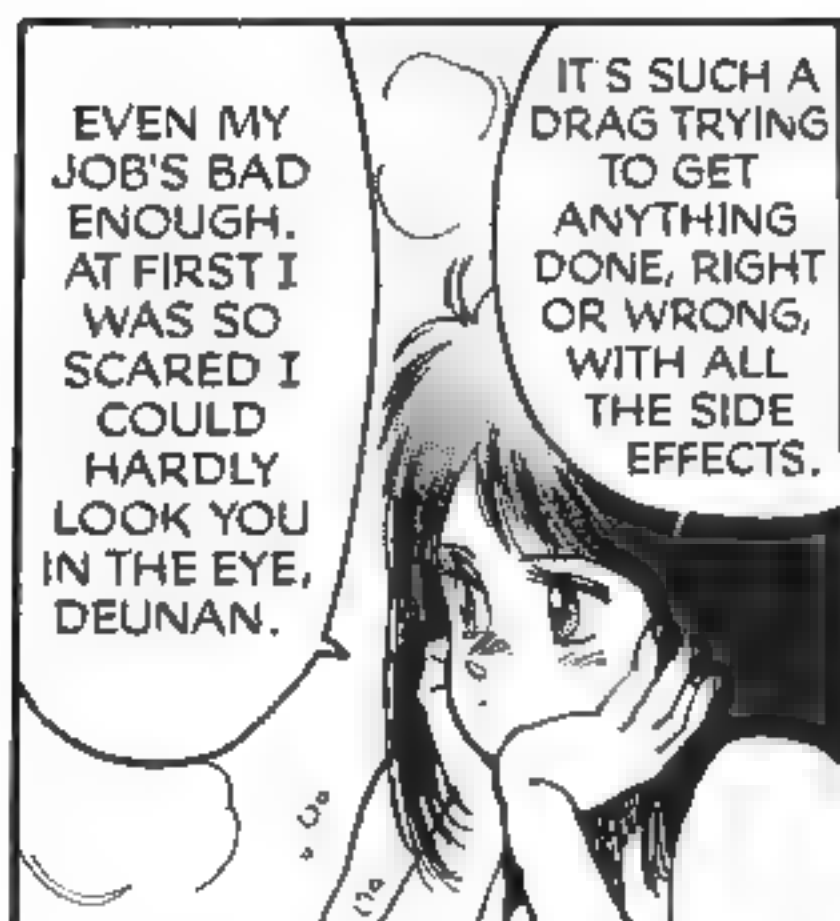
LIKE WOLVES, BIG CATS, HUMANS...TAKE AFRICAN CAPE BUFFALO--THEY'RE DOCILE COWARDS WHEN THEY'RE IN A HERD, BUT EXTREMELY DANGEROUS WHEN ON THEIR OWN.

IT'S SWAHILI FOR A DANGEROUS ANIMAL WITH AN UNPREDICTABLE TEMPERMENT.

\*Masculinization in a woman brought on by excessive male hormones

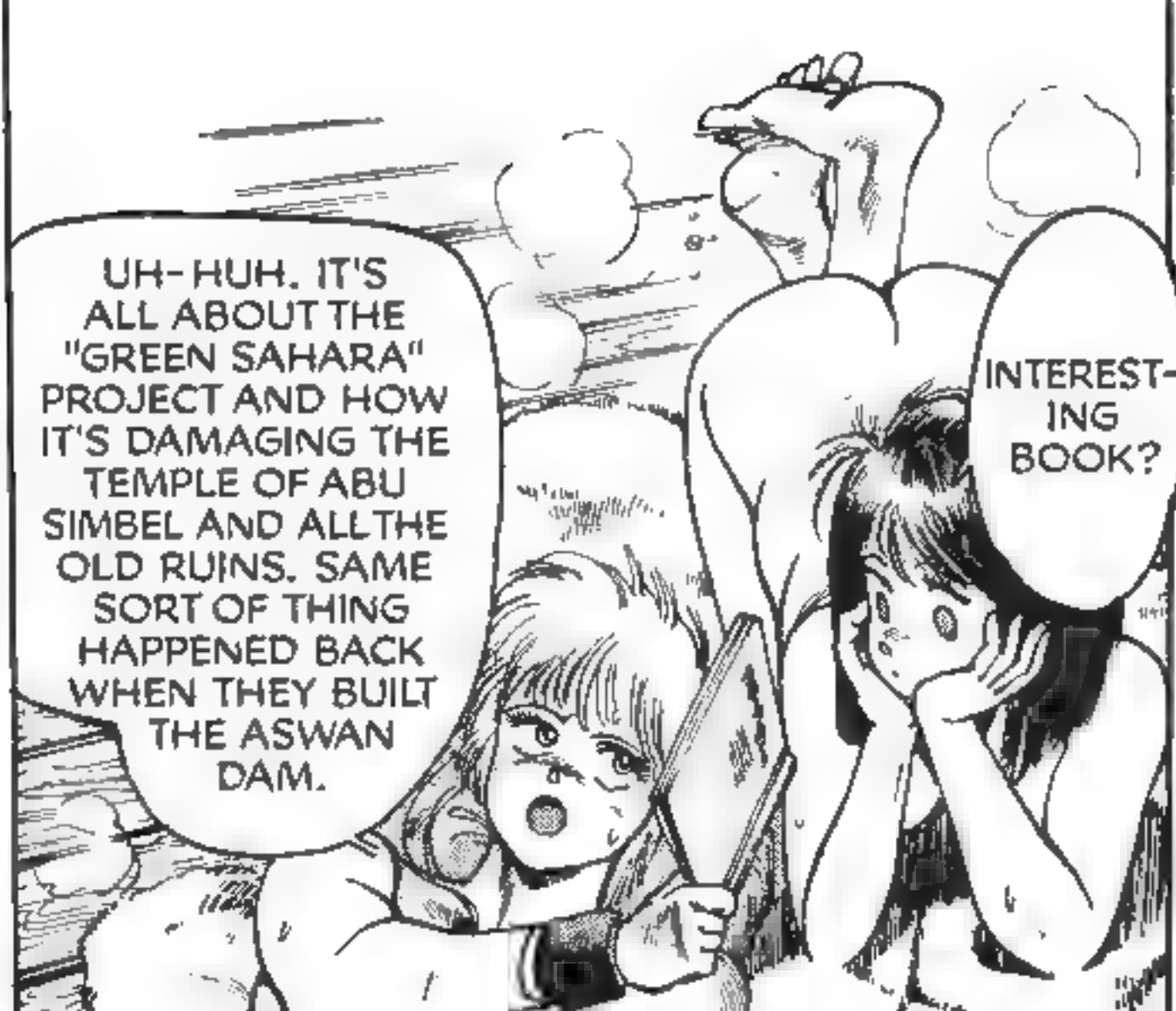






EVEN MY JOB'S BAD ENOUGH. AT FIRST I WAS SO SCARED I COULD HARDLY LOOK YOU IN THE EYE, DEUNAN.

IT'S SUCH A DRAG TRYING TO GET ANYTHING DONE, RIGHT OR WRONG, WITH ALL THE SIDE EFFECTS.



UH-HUH. IT'S ALL ABOUT THE "GREEN SAHARA" PROJECT AND HOW IT'S DAMAGING THE TEMPLE OF ABU SIMBEL AND ALL THE OLD RUINS. SAME SORT OF THING HAPPENED BACK WHEN THEY BUILT THE ASWAN DAM.

INTERESTING BOOK?



MY GRAND-MOTHER WAS A "CAFÉ AU LAIT" FROM SUDAN.

NOT A SHONA.

YOU'RE KID-DING!



WHAT?!

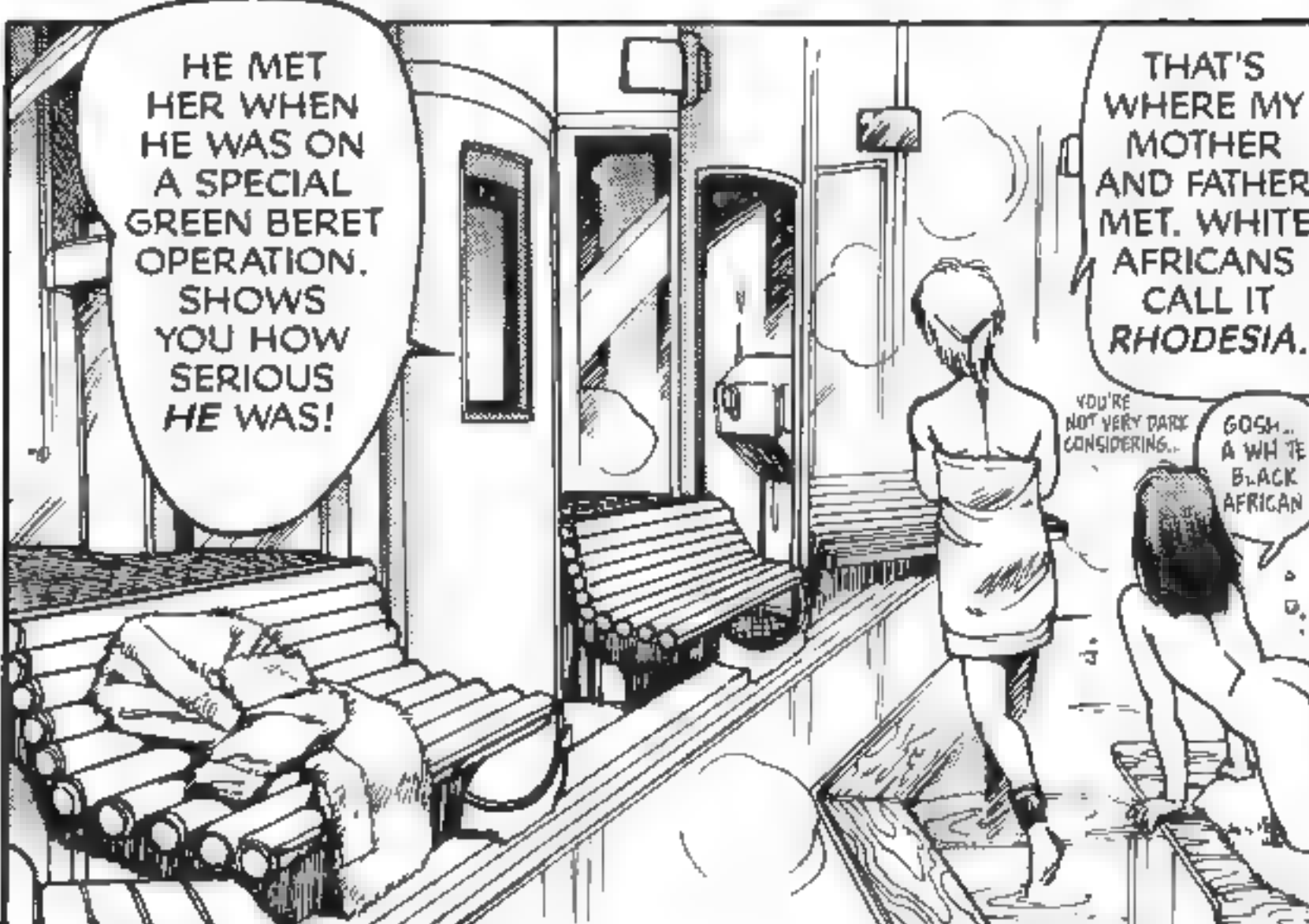
YOU KNOW, YOU'D NEVER GUESS IT, BUT I'VE GOT THE BLOOD OF AFRICA-- THE WATER OF THE WHITE NILE-- RUNNING IN MY VEINS.



ACTUALLY, NO. HE WAS AN ANGLO-FRENCH JOURNALIST FOR THE BBC.

DID HE MEET HER AS AN ISLAMIC EXILE?

SO IF YOU WERE NEAR MEROE, YOUR GRAND-FATHER MUST HAVE BEEN AN ARAB...?

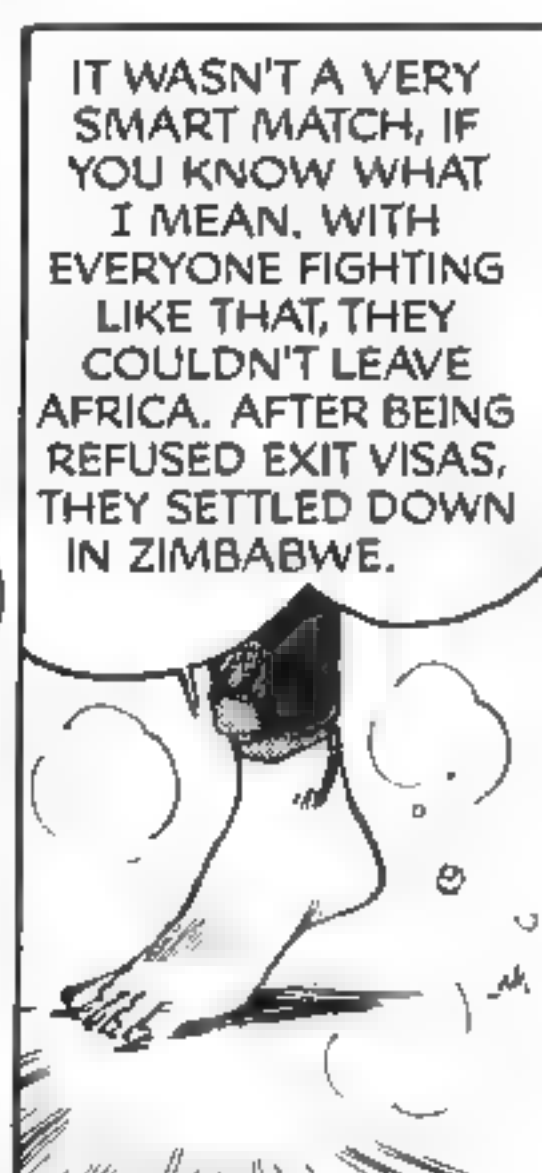


HE MET HER WHEN HE WAS ON A SPECIAL GREEN BERET OPERATION. SHOWS YOU HOW SERIOUS HE WAS!

THAT'S WHERE MY MOTHER AND FATHER MET. WHITE AFRICANS CALL IT RHODESIA.

YOU'RE NOT VERY DARK CONSIDERING...

GOSH... A WHITE BLACK AFRICAN



IT WASN'T A VERY SMART MATCH, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. WITH EVERYONE FIGHTING LIKE THAT, THEY COULDN'T LEAVE AFRICA. AFTER BEING REFUSED EXIT VISAS, THEY SETTLED DOWN IN ZIMBABWE.

\*FX KSHHHSSHH

\*KSHHHSSHH

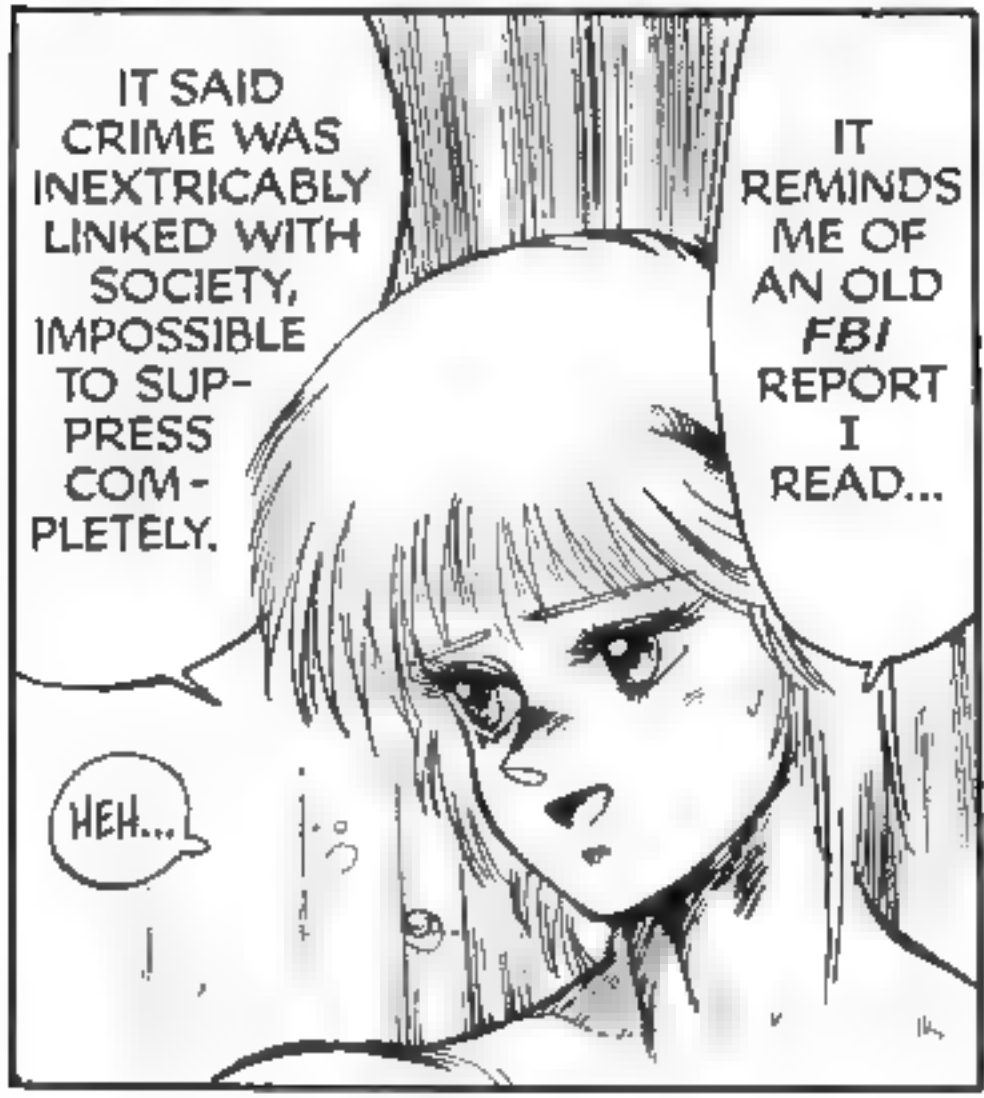
\*FX FMP

SOME BLACK SUPREMACISTS ACCUSED HER OF TRYING TO ACT LIKE A "WHITEY" BECAUSE SHE HAD PALE SKIN. THEY USED A SHOTGUN ON HER... "HEY, KAFFIR!"

WHEN I WAS TEN, MY MOTHER VISITED FRISCO.

BUT THANKS TO MY DUMB DAD, I WAS ABLE TO SURVIVE THE WAR AND MEET BRIAREOS.

KYU KYU



IT SAID CRIME WAS INEXTRICABLY LINKED WITH SOCIETY, IMPOSSIBLE TO SUPPRESS COMPLETELY.

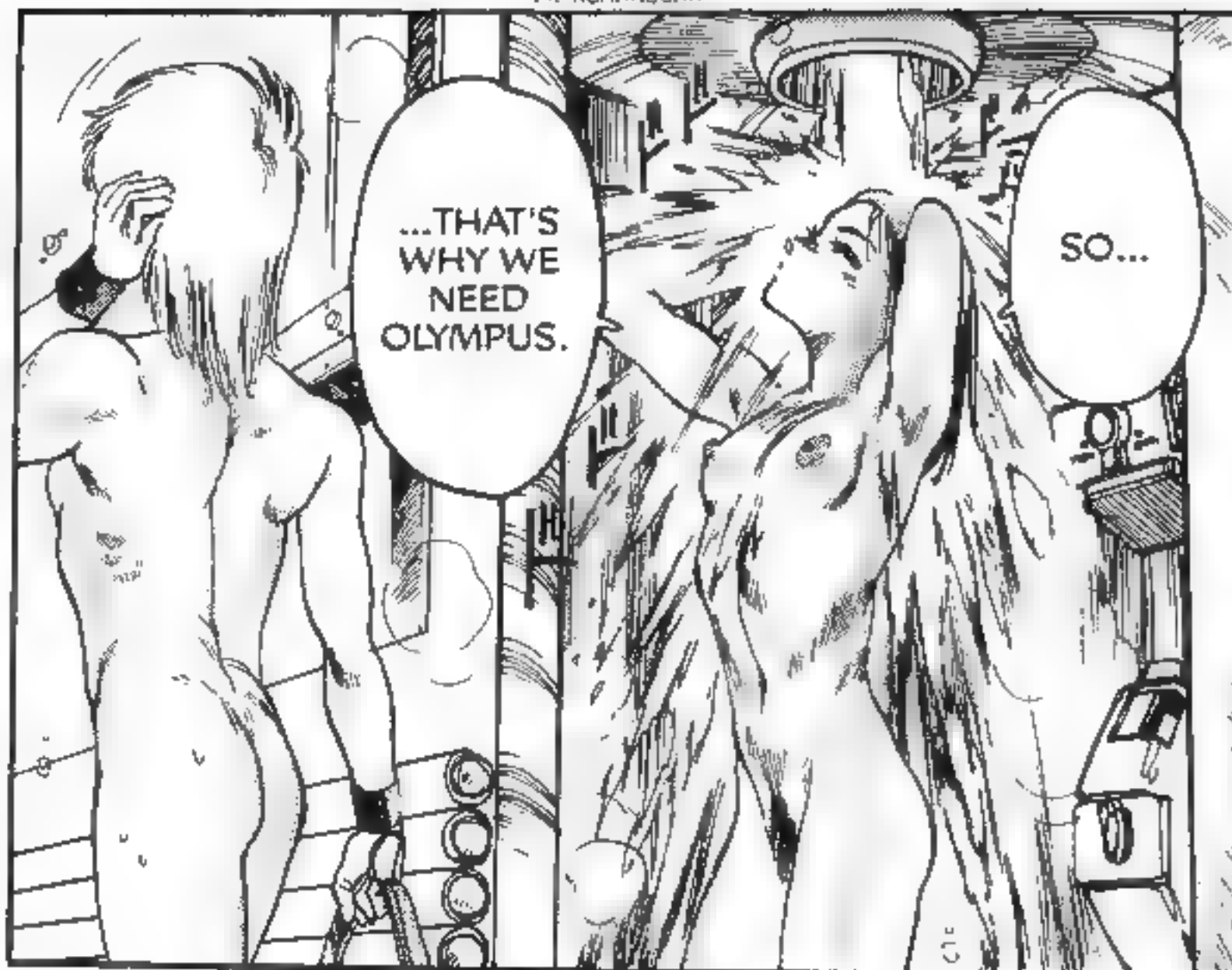
IT REMINDS ME OF AN OLD FBI REPORT I READ...



...I'VE FORGOTTEN A LOT OF THINGS. MAYBE LAUGHED A BIT TOO MUCH.

SINCE I'VE COME TO THIS CITY...







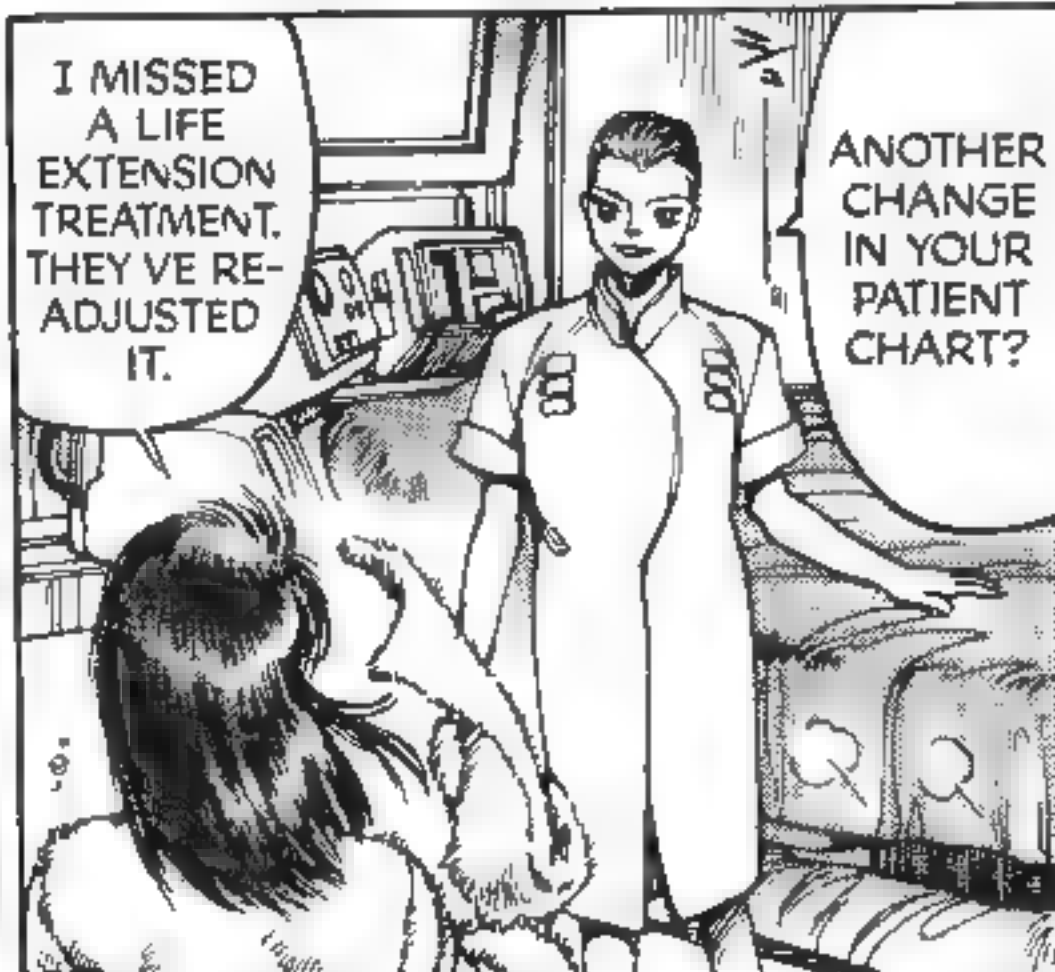
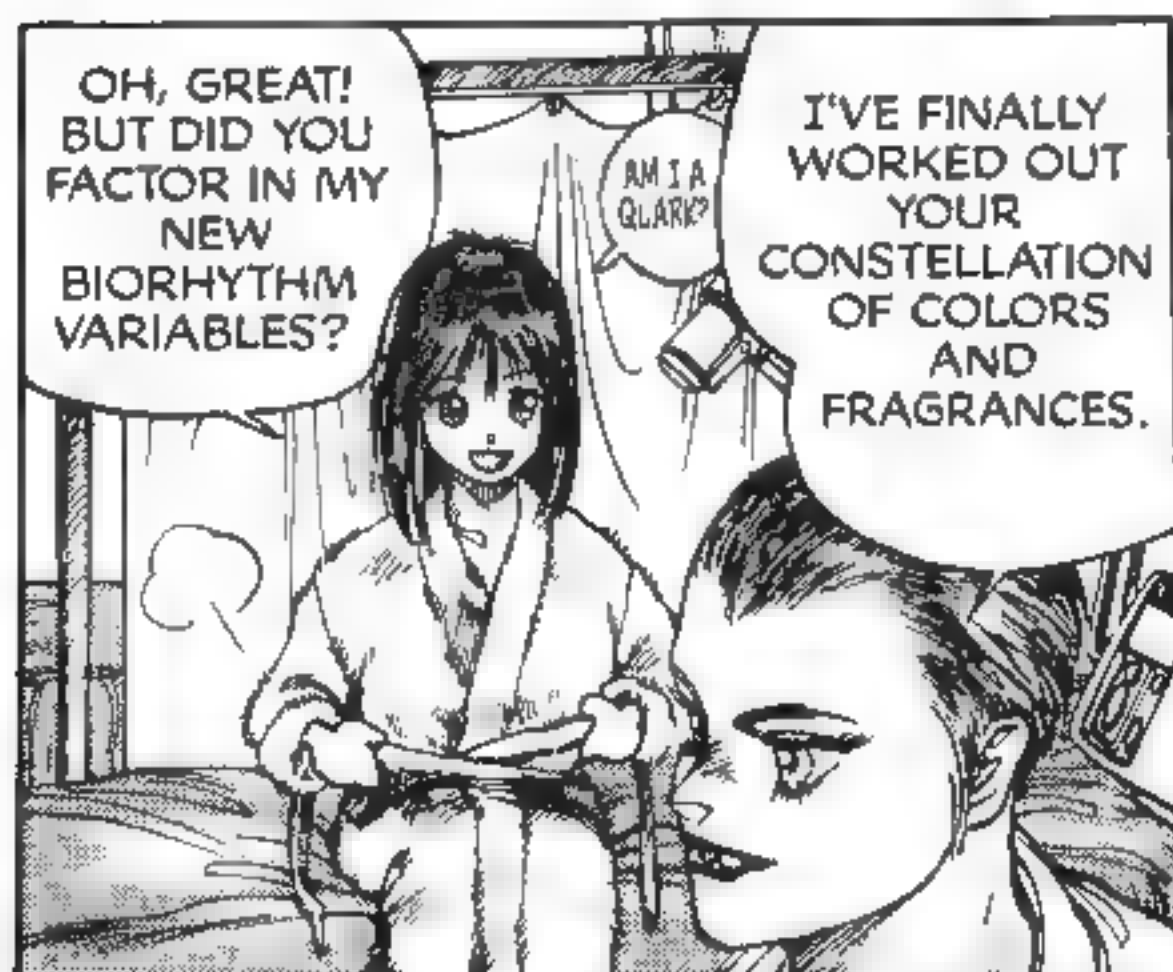




\*FX WSSSHHH



\*FX SHUJUL





YES, MA'AM.



YOSHINO, WILL YOU TAKE CARE OF THIS OTHER LADY?

WHAT DID YOU THINK IT WAS?

I WONDERED WHAT THE DEVIL WAS GOING ON... A MASSAGE, HMM?

\*FX TAKKA TAKKA



YES, I AM.

HA HA HA HA

BEEP

ARE YOU...?

\*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP



YOU'RE THE NEW... HUMAN, AREN'T YOU?



IF A BUNCH OF US DIE SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD, WE CAN ALL FEEL IT. THAT SHOULD COME IN REAL HANDY IN THE SPACE AGE.

SO WE CAN PICK OUT OUR OWN KIND, LIKE TWINS... OR CLONES.

WE BIOROIDS ARE ALL CONSTRUCTED FROM THE SAME GENE POOL. WE'RE ALL COMRADES, WITH THE SAME GENETIC STRUCTURE.

HITOMI, HOW COULD YOU TELL? WHAT GIVES US AWAY?

MY GOODNESS. YOUR SKIN IS IN TERRIBLE CONDITION.

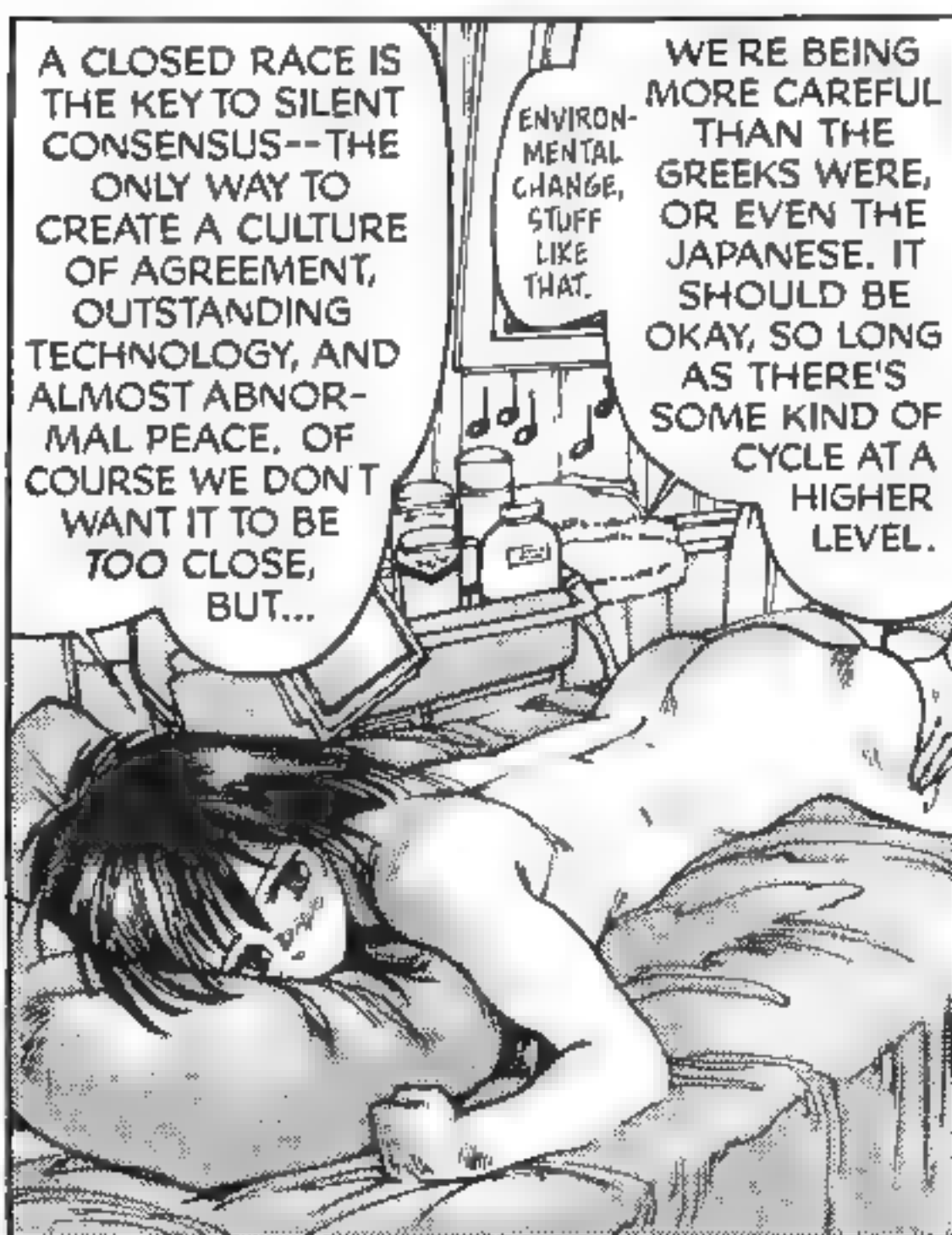
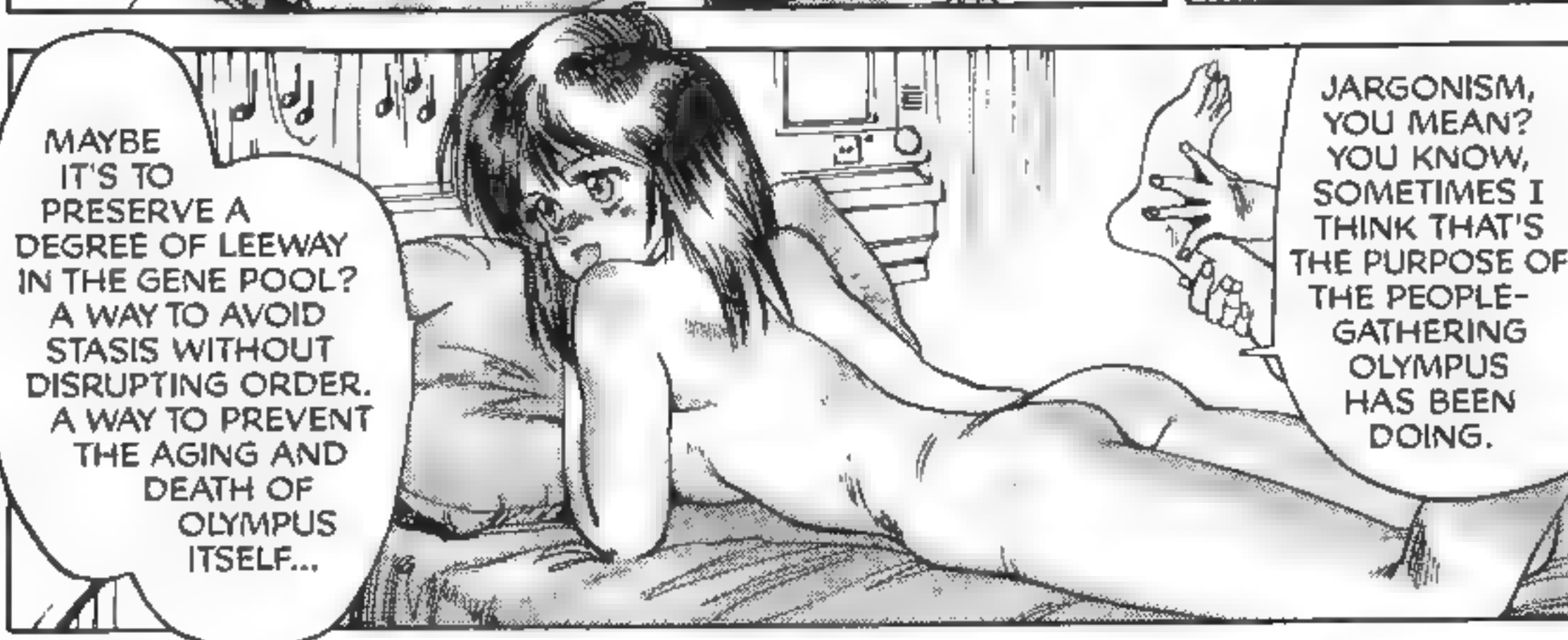
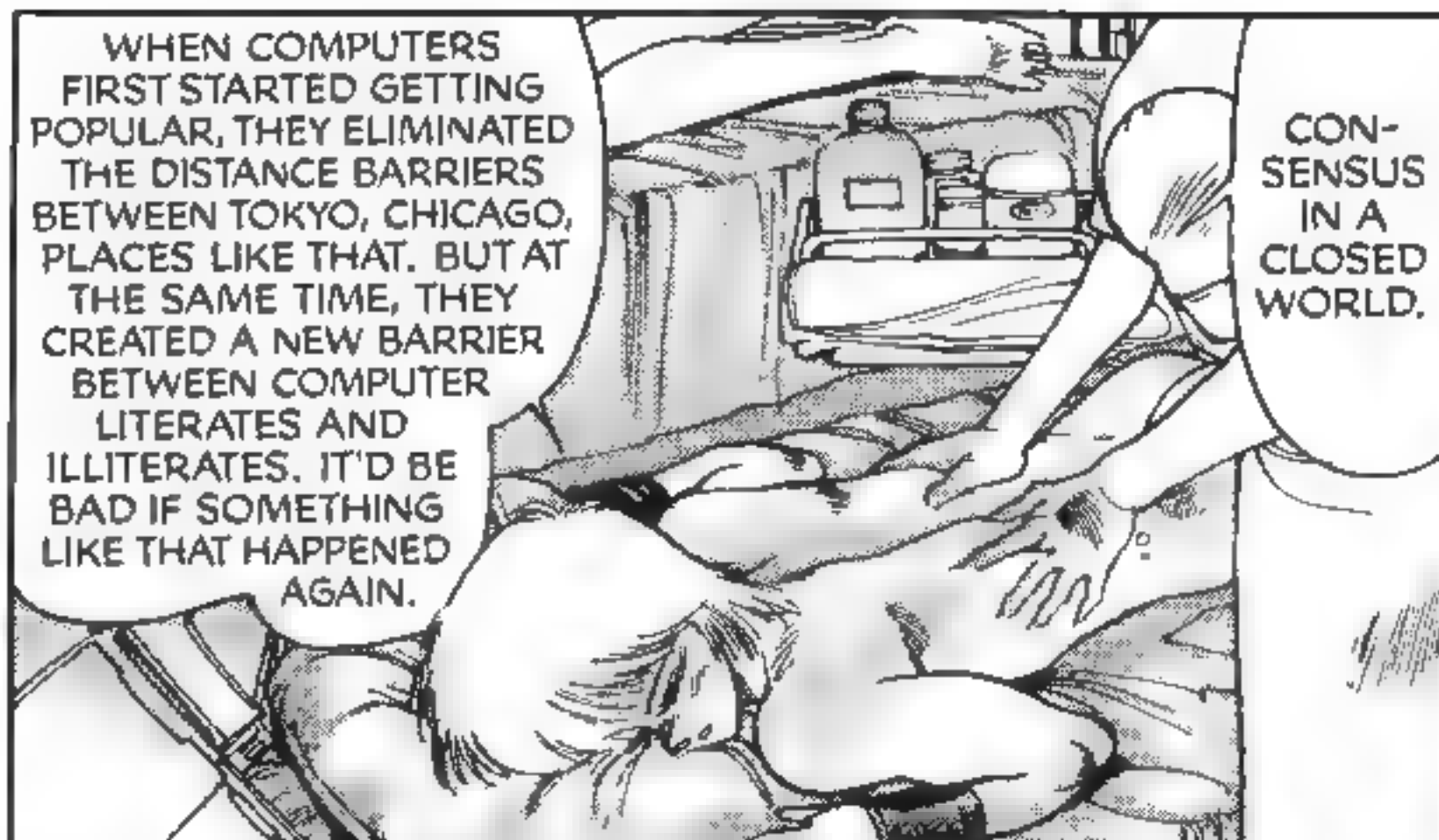


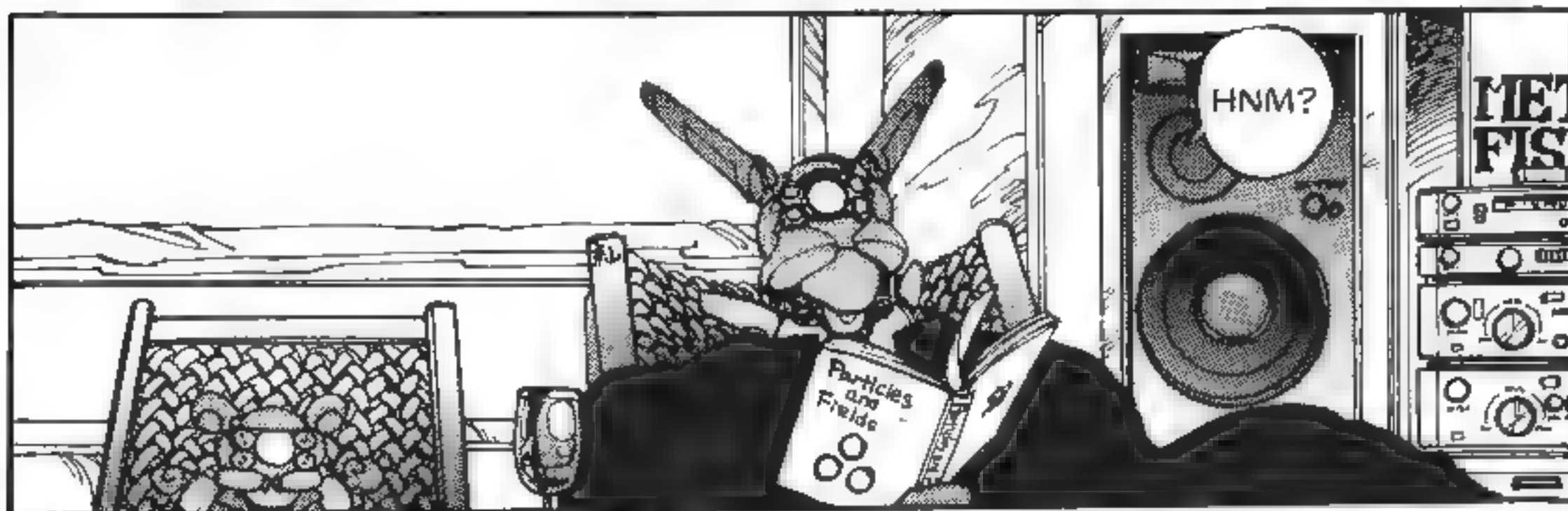
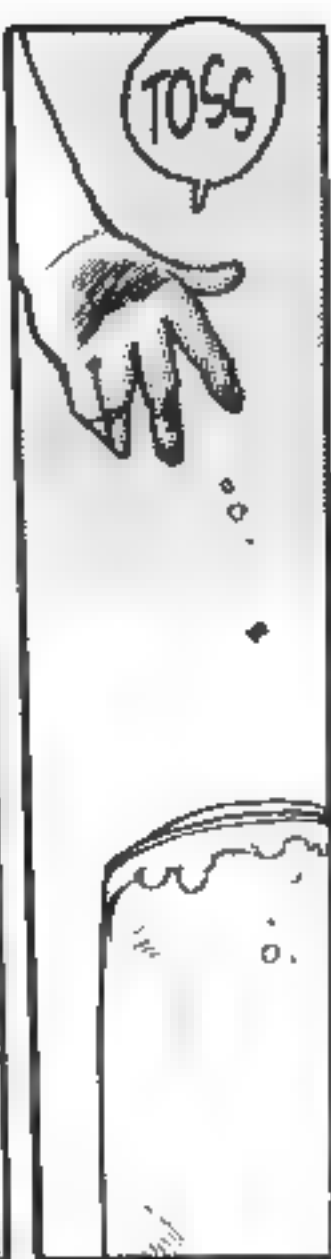
IN ONE SENSE, THOUGH, IT CAN BE DANGEROUS.

THE VULCAN GUY ON THAT OLD SF VID-PROGRAM "STAR TREK"-- DIDN'T HE HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT? PRETTY USEFUL, I GUESS.

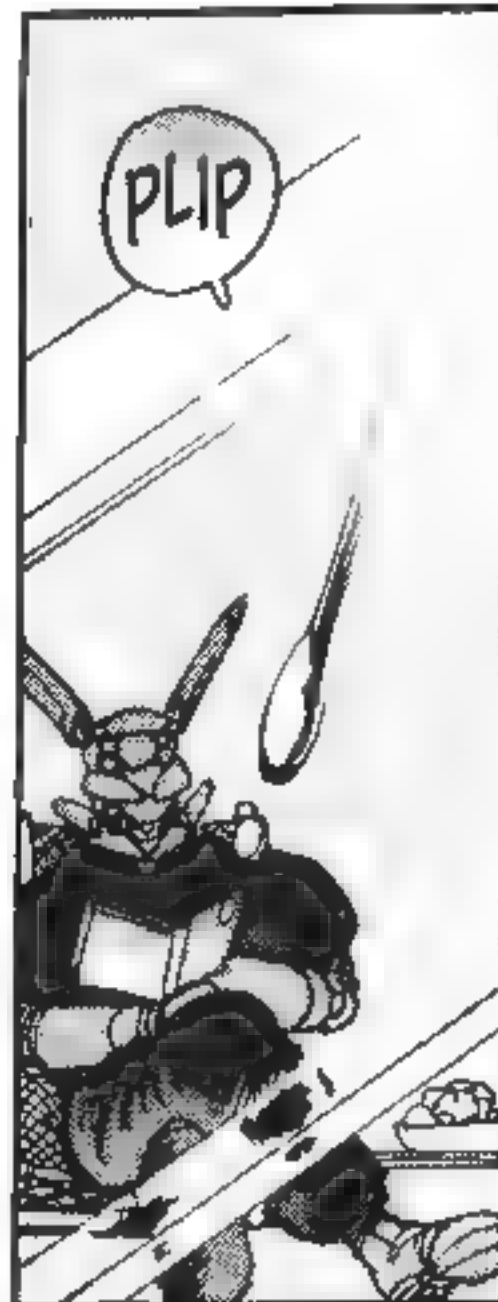








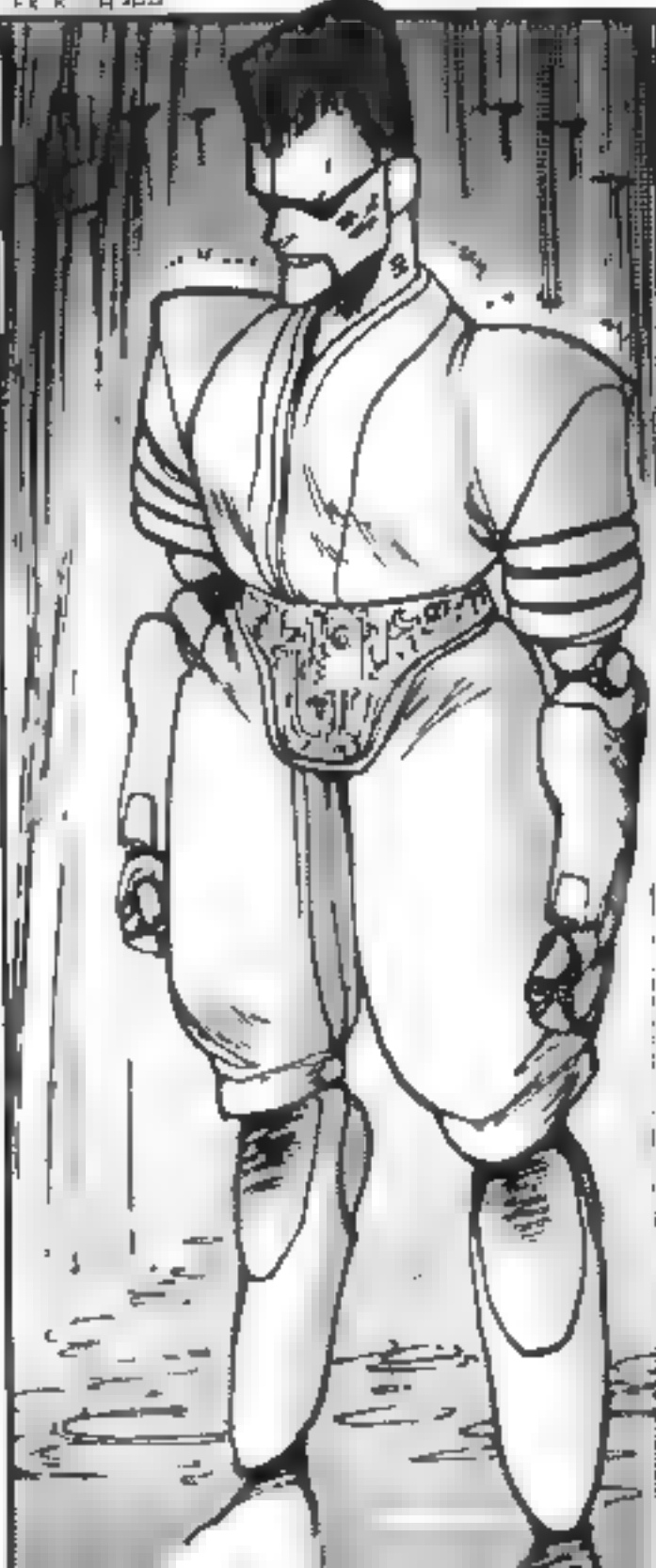
\*FX SSSSSS



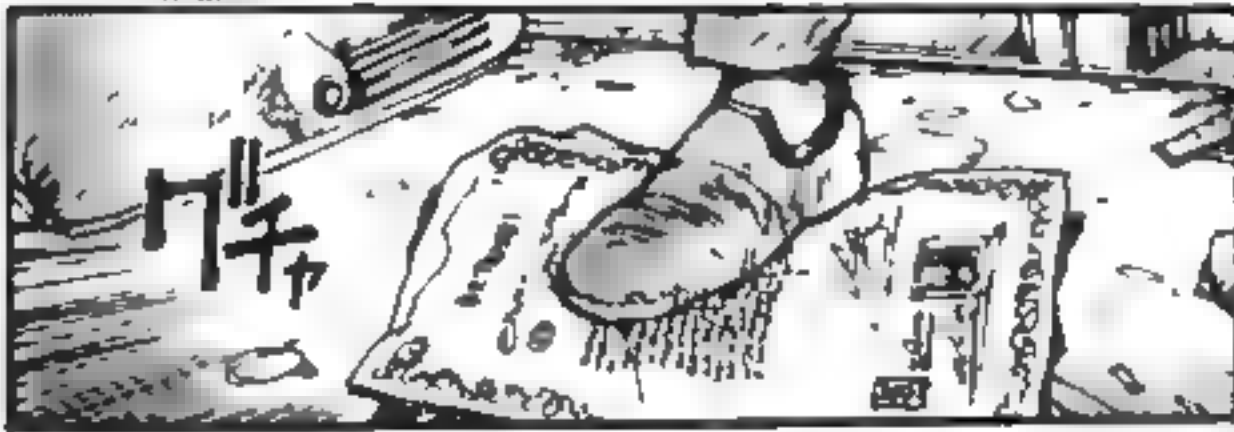




FX KS JHHH



FX GICH



FX RV



FX FWA



FX SESH SESH SESH

I WISH TO RETURN IN A MANNER BEFITTING THE TRUE MAHDI.\*

ALL I NEED IS ENOUGH FIREPOWER TO GET ME TO SYRIA OR PAKISTAN.

THE STAR OF MY SYSTEM, THE TITAN MODEL, CAN EVEN LINK UP WITH ONE OF THE "SPIDER" PLATFORMS. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT, EH?



HMPH! ALLAH HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT--MY HECATON-CHIES SYSTEM IS COMPLETELY ORIGINAL.

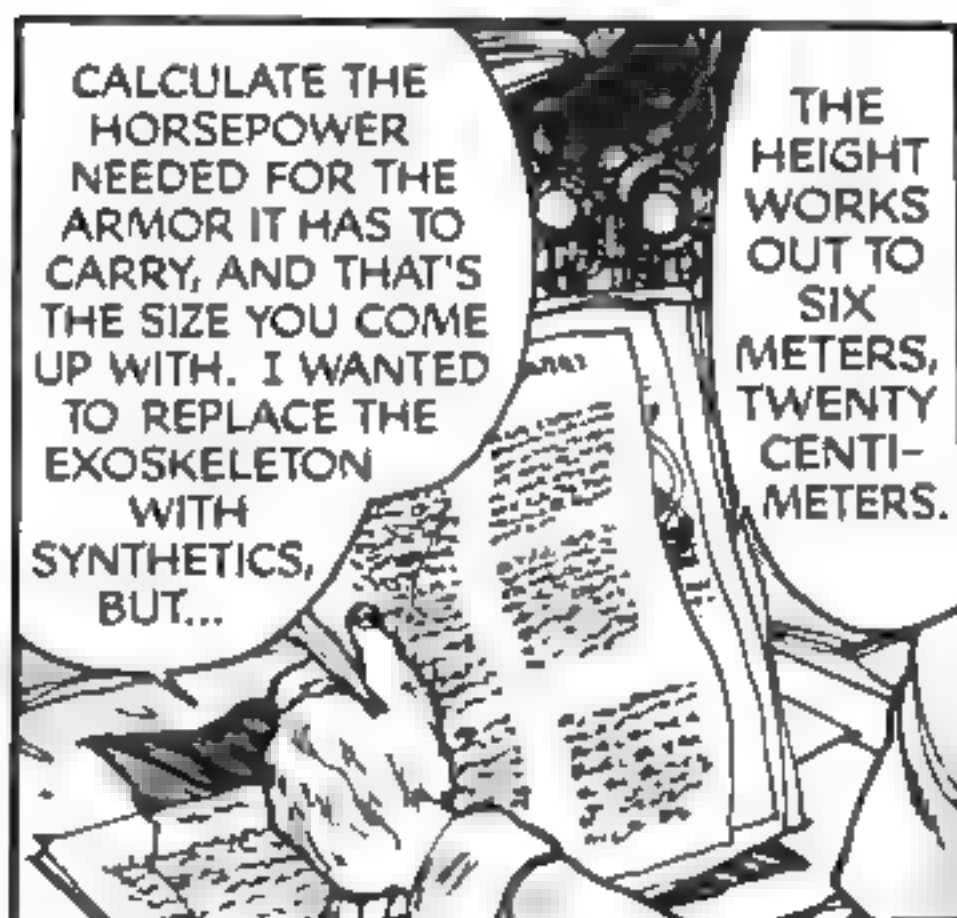


FX BASA BASA

WHERE IS THE "GIFT OF ALLAH"?

\*L tēra-y, "He who is gu ded"--the Muslim savior. The title of an expected spiritua and tempora ruler dest ned to establish a reign of righteousness throughout the world





THE HEIGHT WORKS OUT TO SIX METERS, TWENTY CENTI-METERS.



THAT'S NONE OF MY AFFAIR.

FX SPSH SPSH SPSH



THU

THU

THU



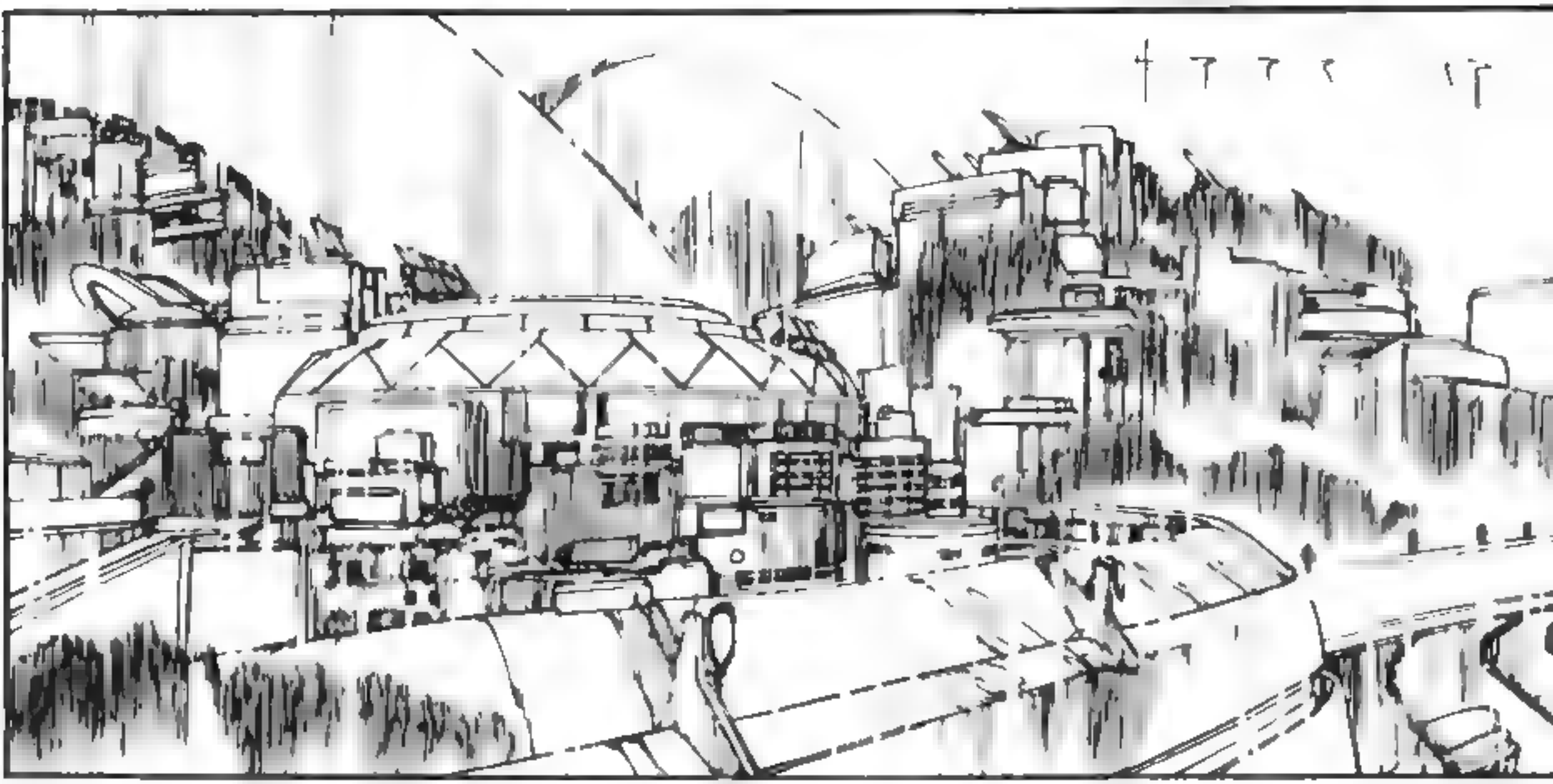
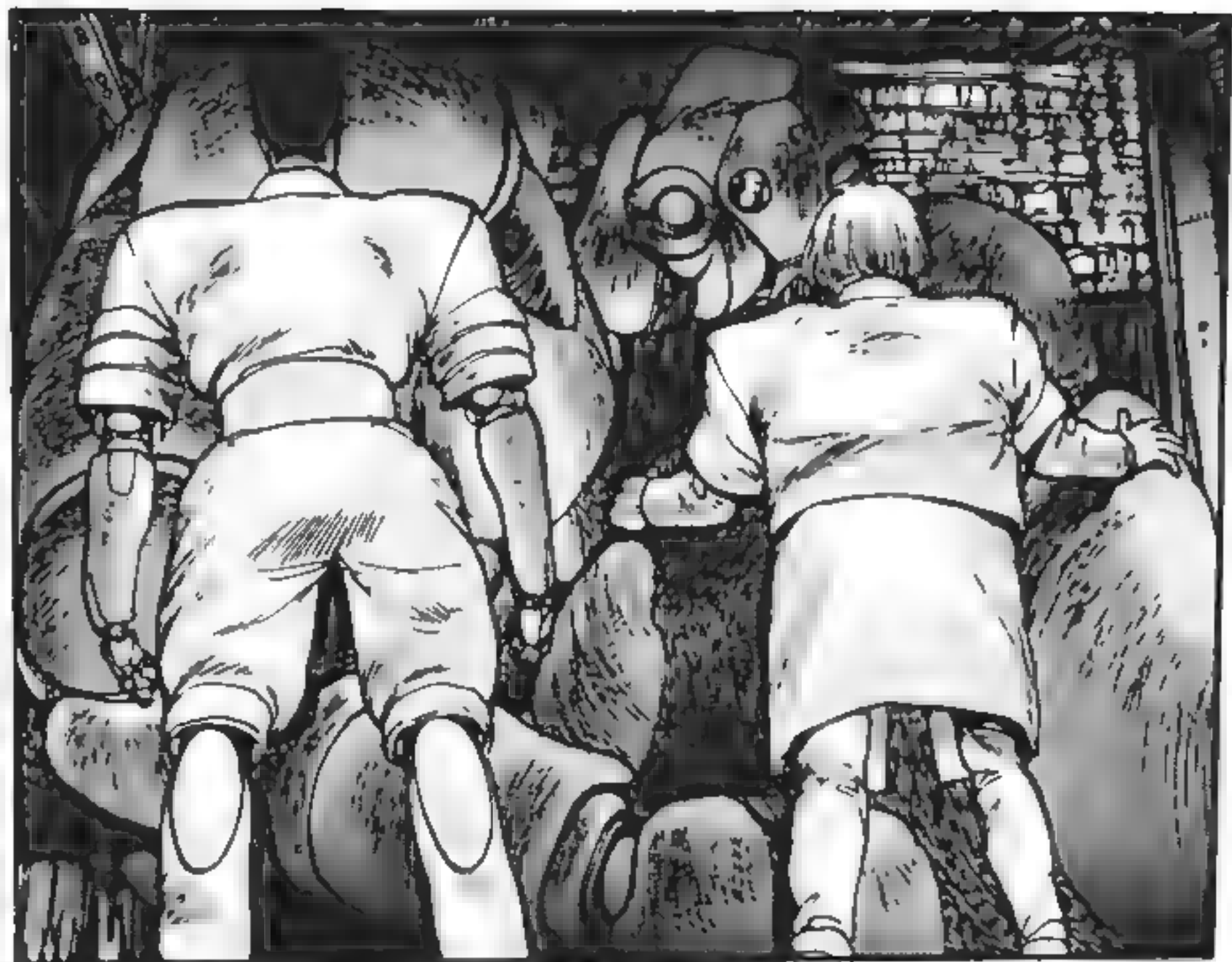
FIRST THE SURGERY. RECONSTRUCTION CAN PROCEED PARALLEL WITH MY REHABILITATION.



SOMEONE'S BOUND TO TRACE ALL THOSE PARTS ORDERS. THEY'RE TOO SPECIALIZED...



ALL I HEAR ARE PATROL CAR SIRENS. WE'VE GOT TO HURRY-- THE NEXT TIME THE COPS COME AROUND, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE THIS.





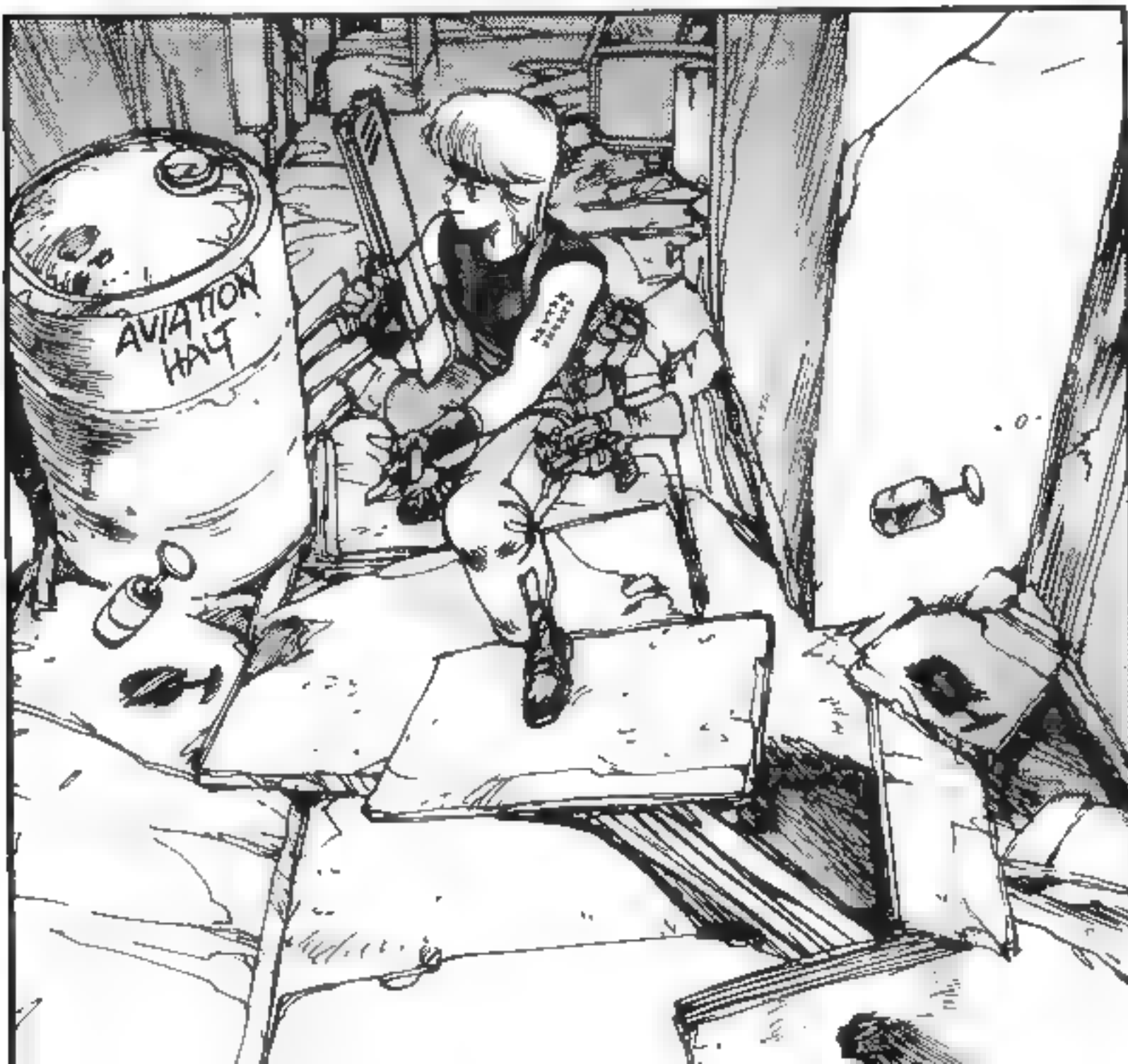




\*FX POP



HEY, WHAT'S  
YOUR PROB,  
MAN?!  
YOU'RE  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE RIGHT  
BEHIND  
ME!

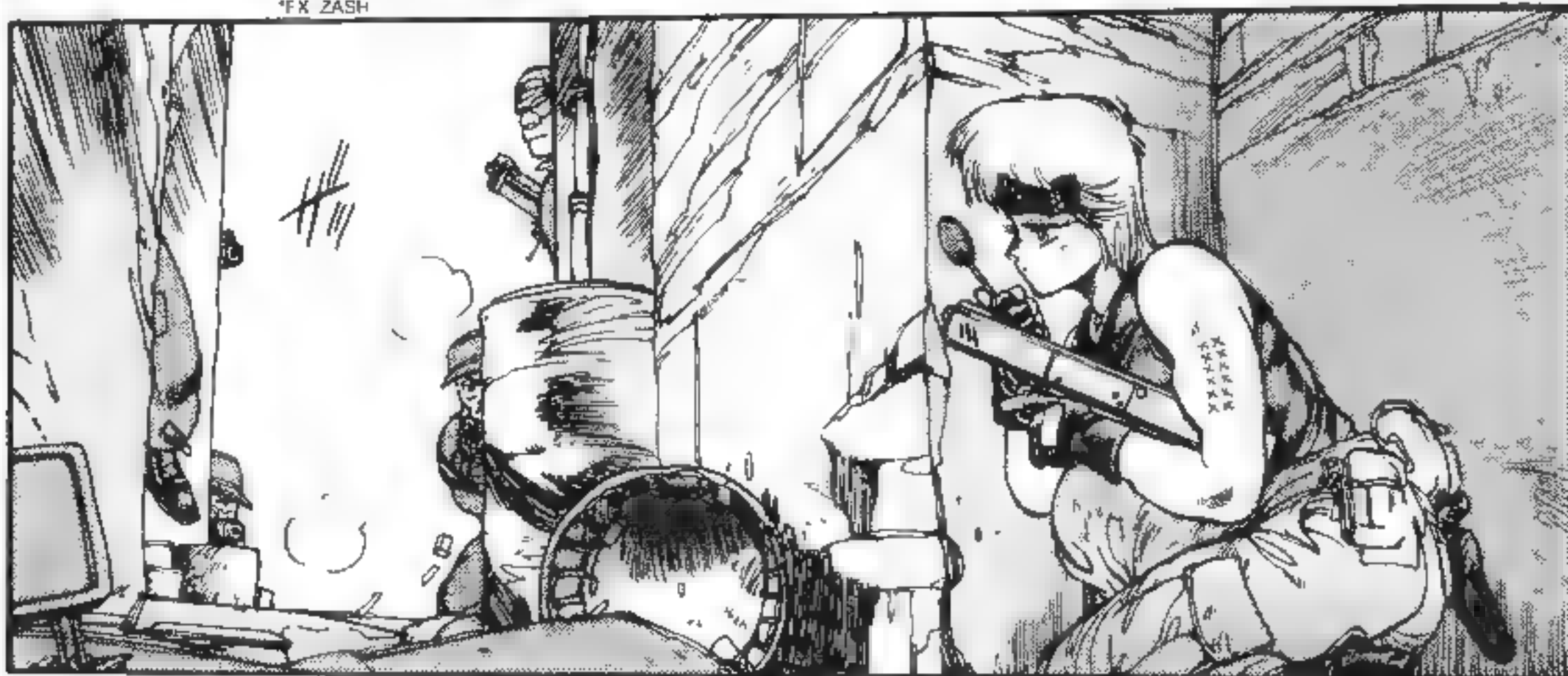


BLOWN  
TO SHIT





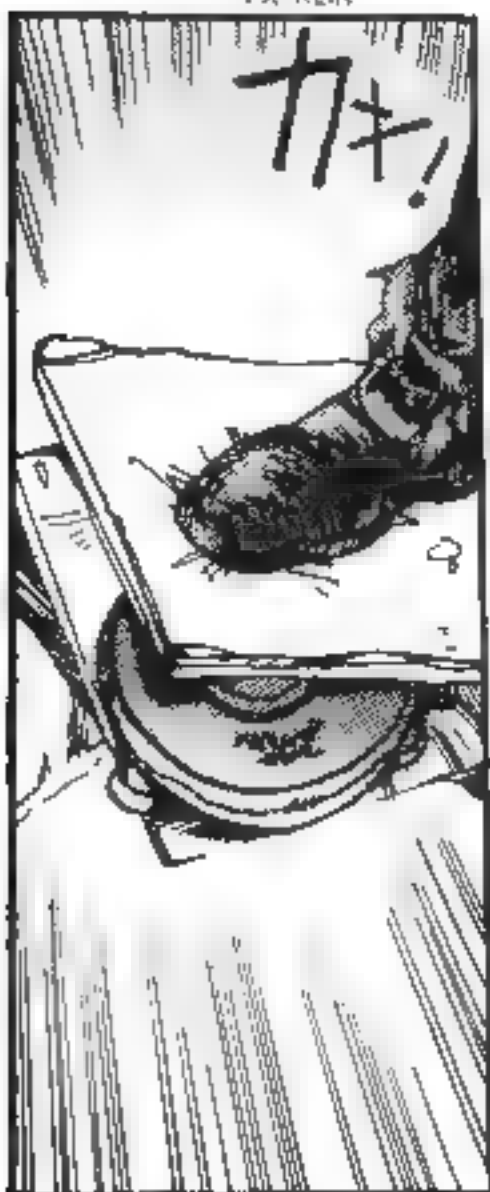
\*FX ZASH



\*FX KLIK

\*FX SPAK SPAK SPAK SPAK

\*FX BRRTTTT





GREEN, AREN'T YOU?

HEE HEE



THE NEW ROOKIE THEY'RE ALL TALKING ABOUT, RIGHT? YOU SEE THAT GRIN ON HER FACE? SHE'S A SADIST, I TELL YOU.



CHRIST... SHE STARTS OUT WITH FOUR KNIVES, AND TAKES OUT ALL SIXTEEN OF THOSE GUYS.



I'M TIRED OF ALWAYS BEING THE BAD GUY.

BLUE MAX LA-LA-LA

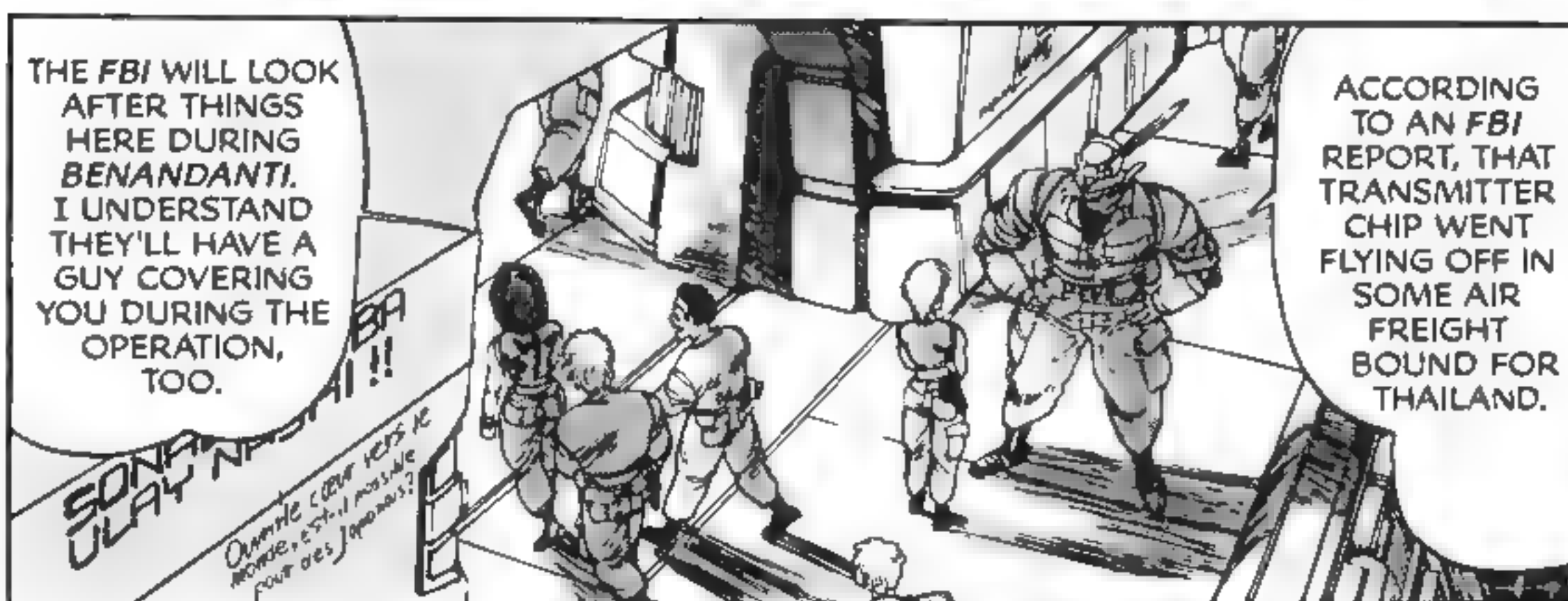


ONCE TRAINING'S OVER, ME AND MARA, WE'RE GONNA--

THAT'S ALL YOU EVER TALK ABOUT!

Te ensena muchas cosas!







IT JUST SHOWS  
HOW MUCH HE  
WORRIES ABOUT  
YOU, OKAY? HE'S  
TRYING TO GET  
YOU PUMPED, YOU  
KNOW, REALLY  
GET INTO IT...



RIGHT ON...  
I DON'T LIKE HIM  
STICKIN' HIS TWO  
CENTS IN ALL  
THE TIME LIKE  
THAT.

WATER  
TASTES  
LIKE  
HAF

HEH  
I NO BE  
SWEATIN'  
THAT ONE,  
EH? THE  
POINTMAN,  
SHE GOT BE  
GOOD  
ENOUGH WE  
ALL C'N  
TRUS' HER,  
EH!



AND  
PROBLEMS  
FOR ONE OF  
US ARE  
PROBLEMS  
FOR ALL OF  
US, RIGHT?  
AM I RIGHT  
OR  
WHAT?

PUT A  
CORK IN IT,  
WILL YA?!  
WE'RE ALL  
PART OF THE  
SAME TEAM,  
YA KNOW!

IT BE  
YOU TWO  
PROBLEM  
ANYWAY,  
MON.

DAMN  
MERICANS

ONE  
WEAK  
LINK IN  
THE  
CHAIN,  
EH?



YOU  
GUYS  
ON THE  
SAME  
TEAM AS  
DORIC?

HI  
THERE...



SURE...

IT'S TRUE...  
WE'RE NOT  
CYBORGS,  
YOU  
KNOW.  
YOU'VE  
GOT TO  
CUT US A  
BIT MORE  
SLACK,  
OKAY?

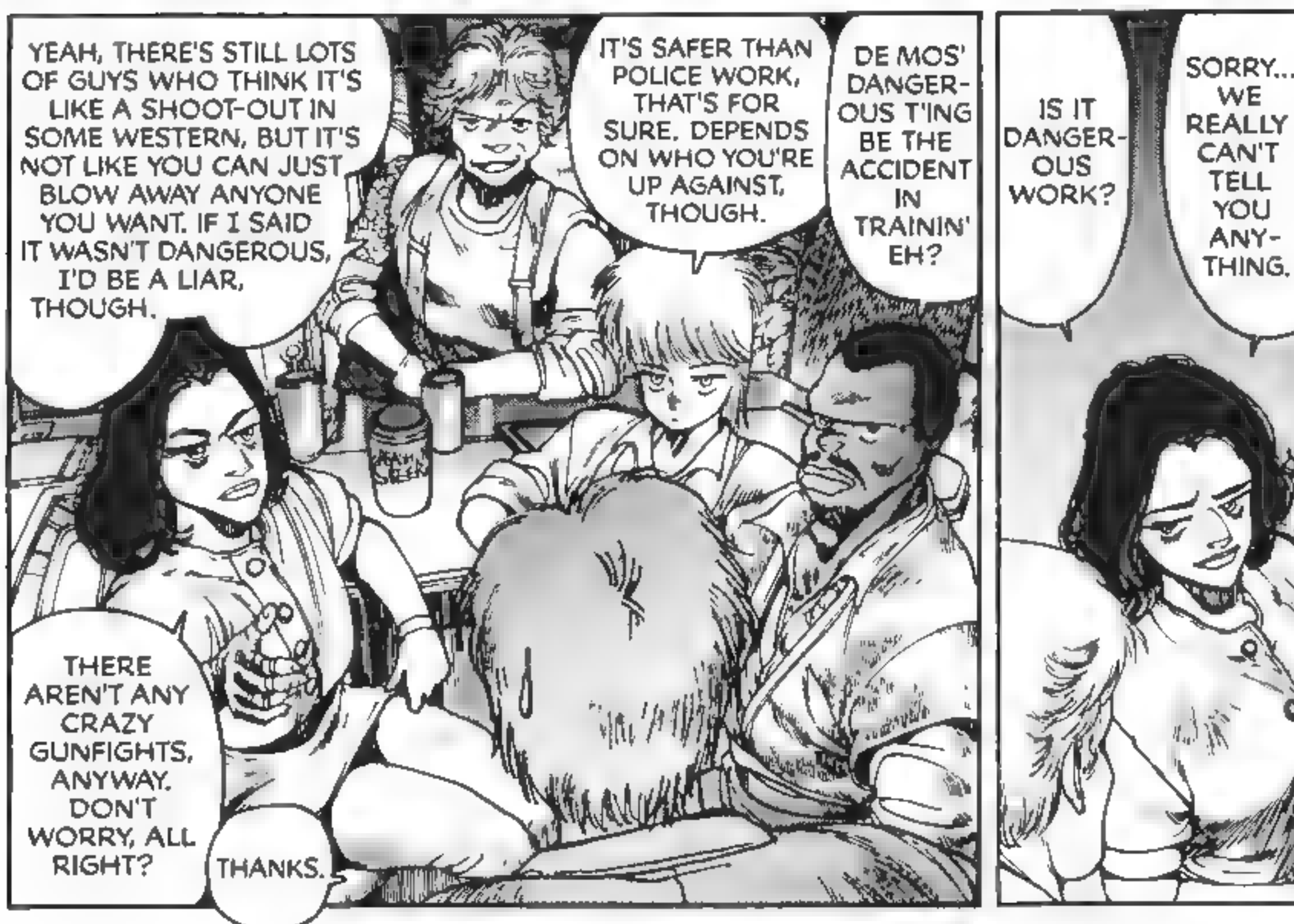
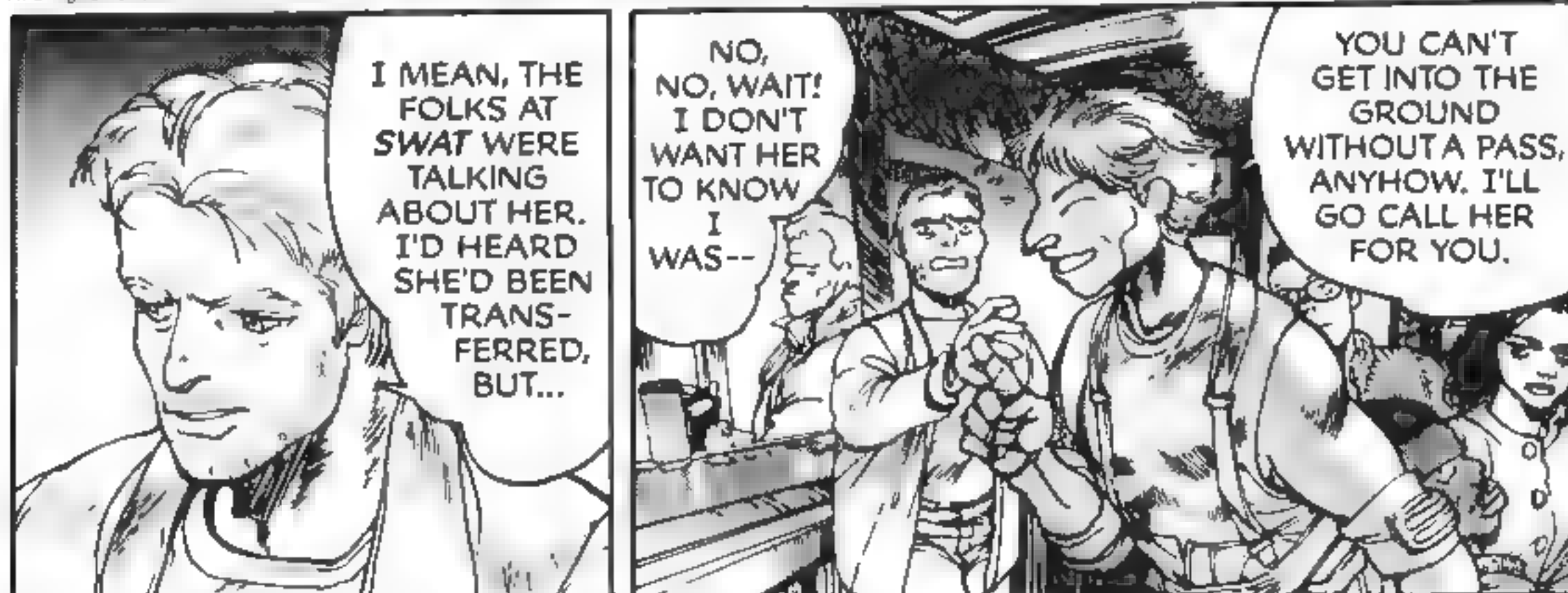
YEAH, BUT  
THAT CYBORG,  
MON... WE NO  
C'N SEE IT,  
Y'KNOW, BUT  
HE SAY YOU  
BEEN ACTIN'  
MORE  
RUTHLESS'N  
USUAL. HE  
REALLY  
WORRIED,  
MON.





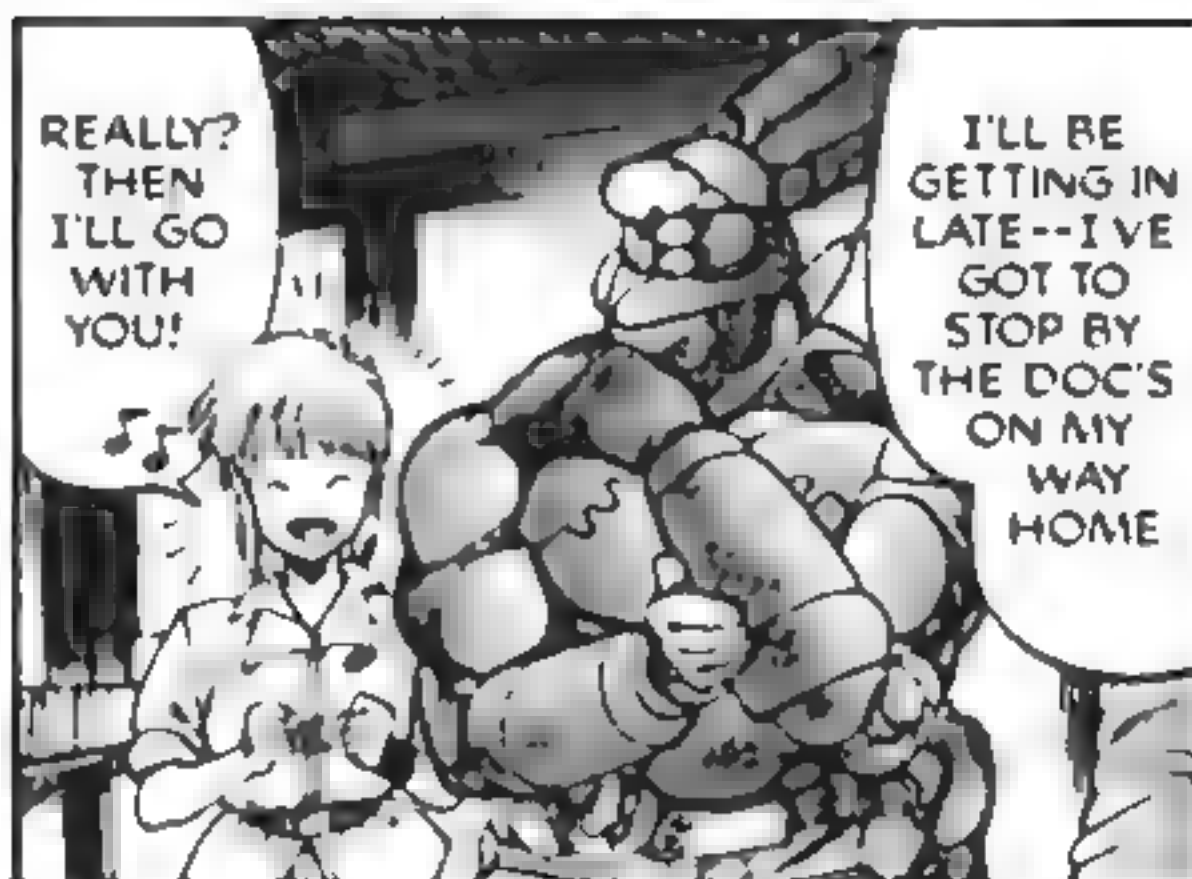


At a higher level, even if the entire area can be seen all at once, the Planck constant is the footfalls of a flea, but hardly applicable to us being prisoners of horrors. (joke)

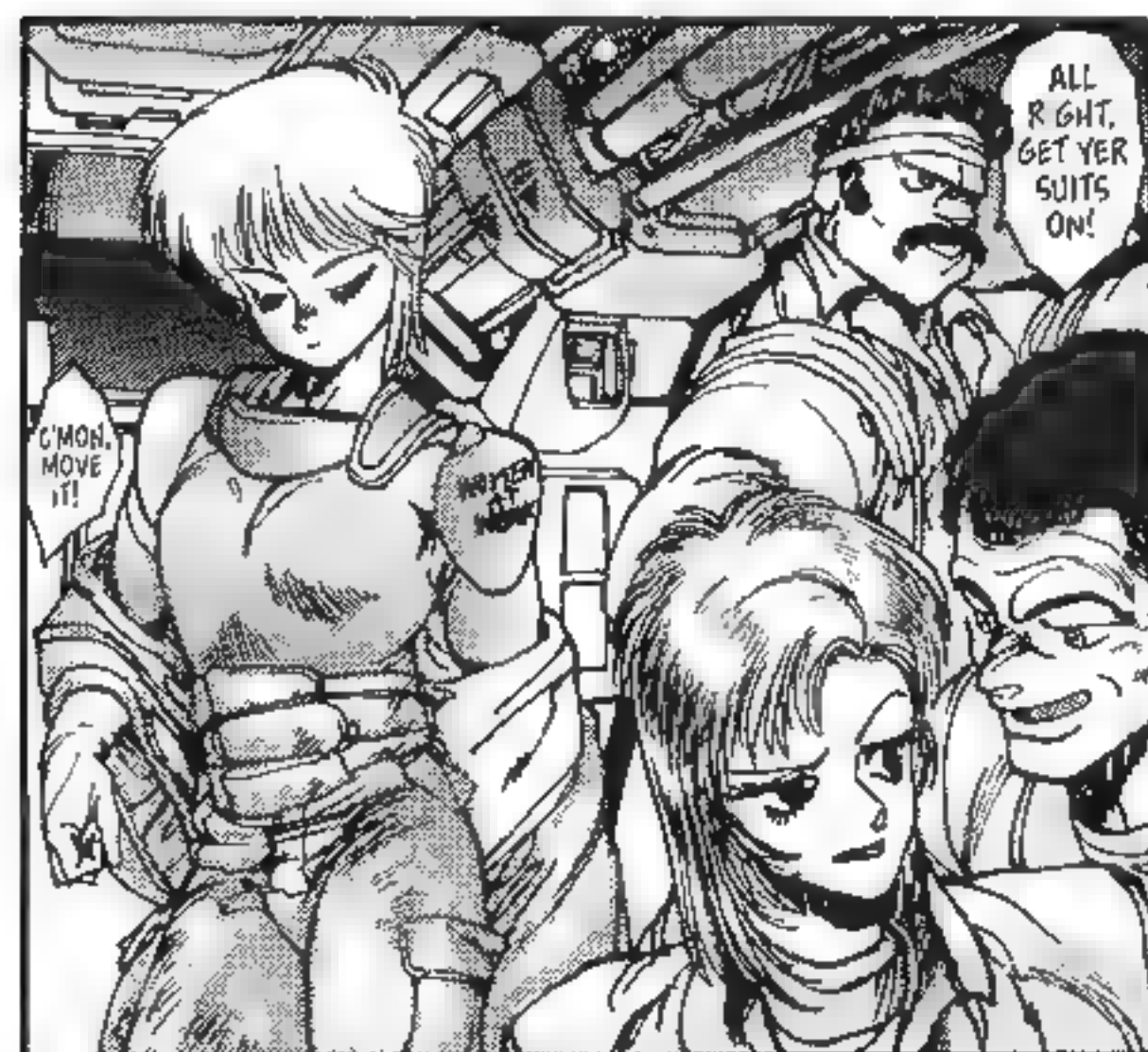
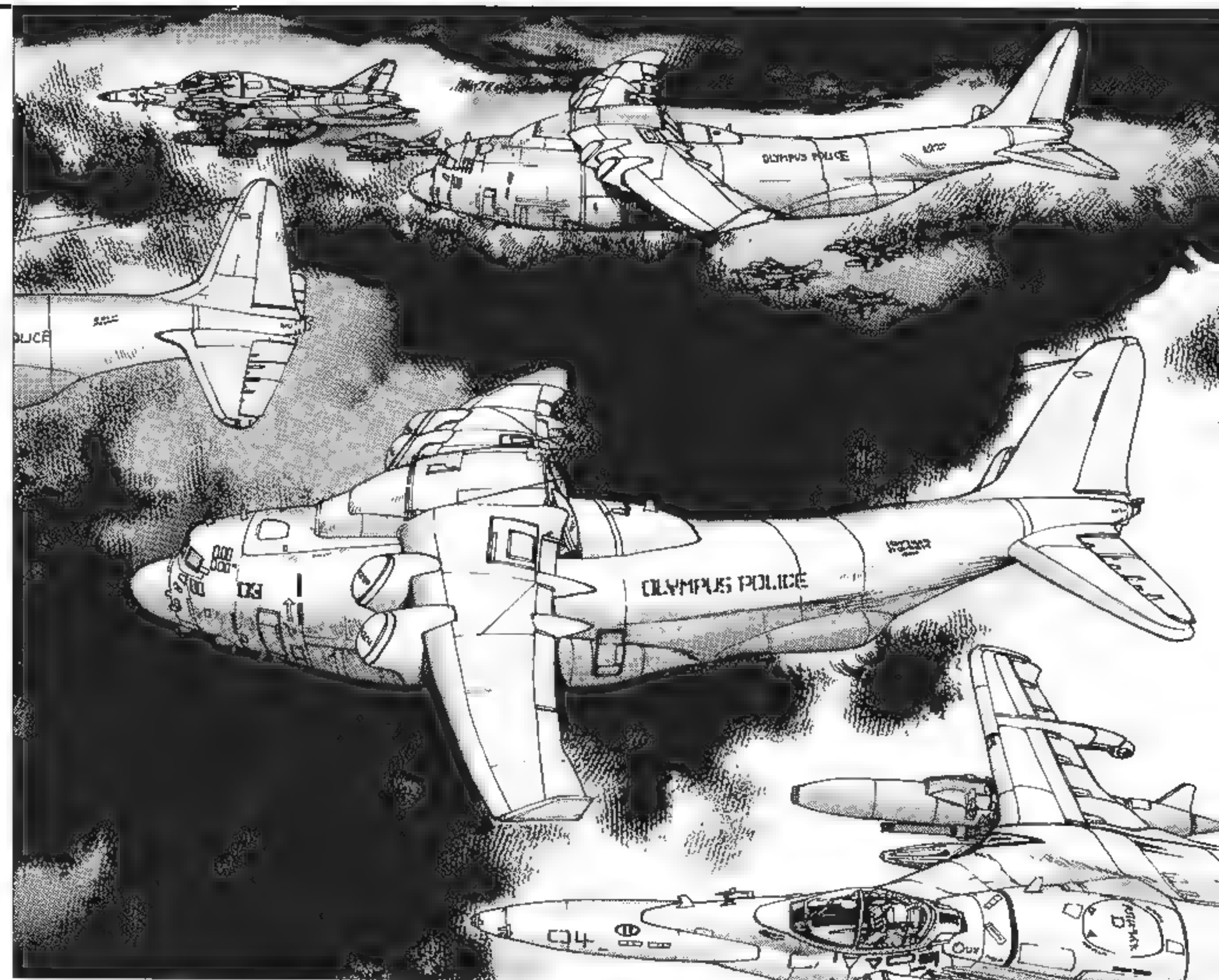
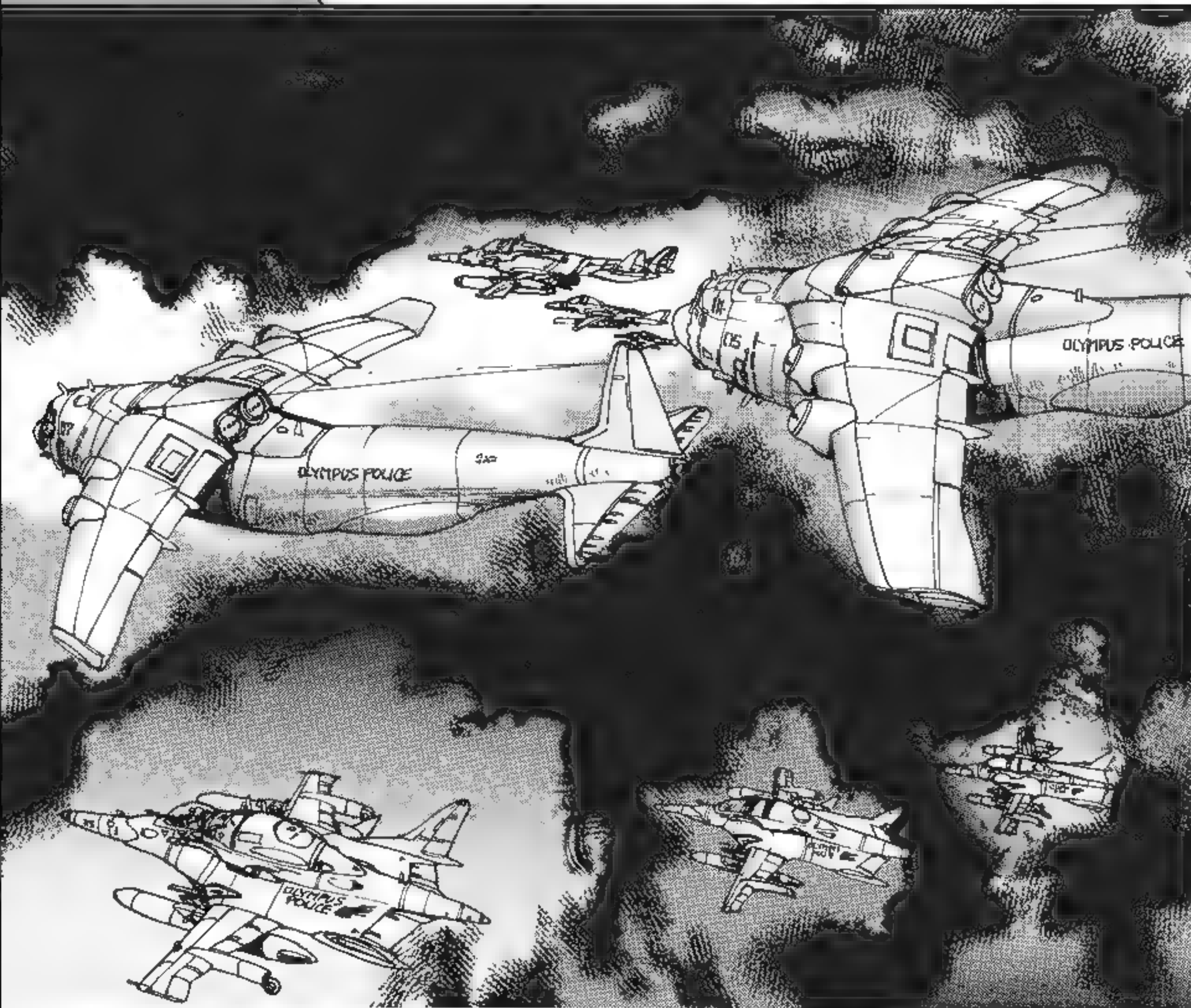






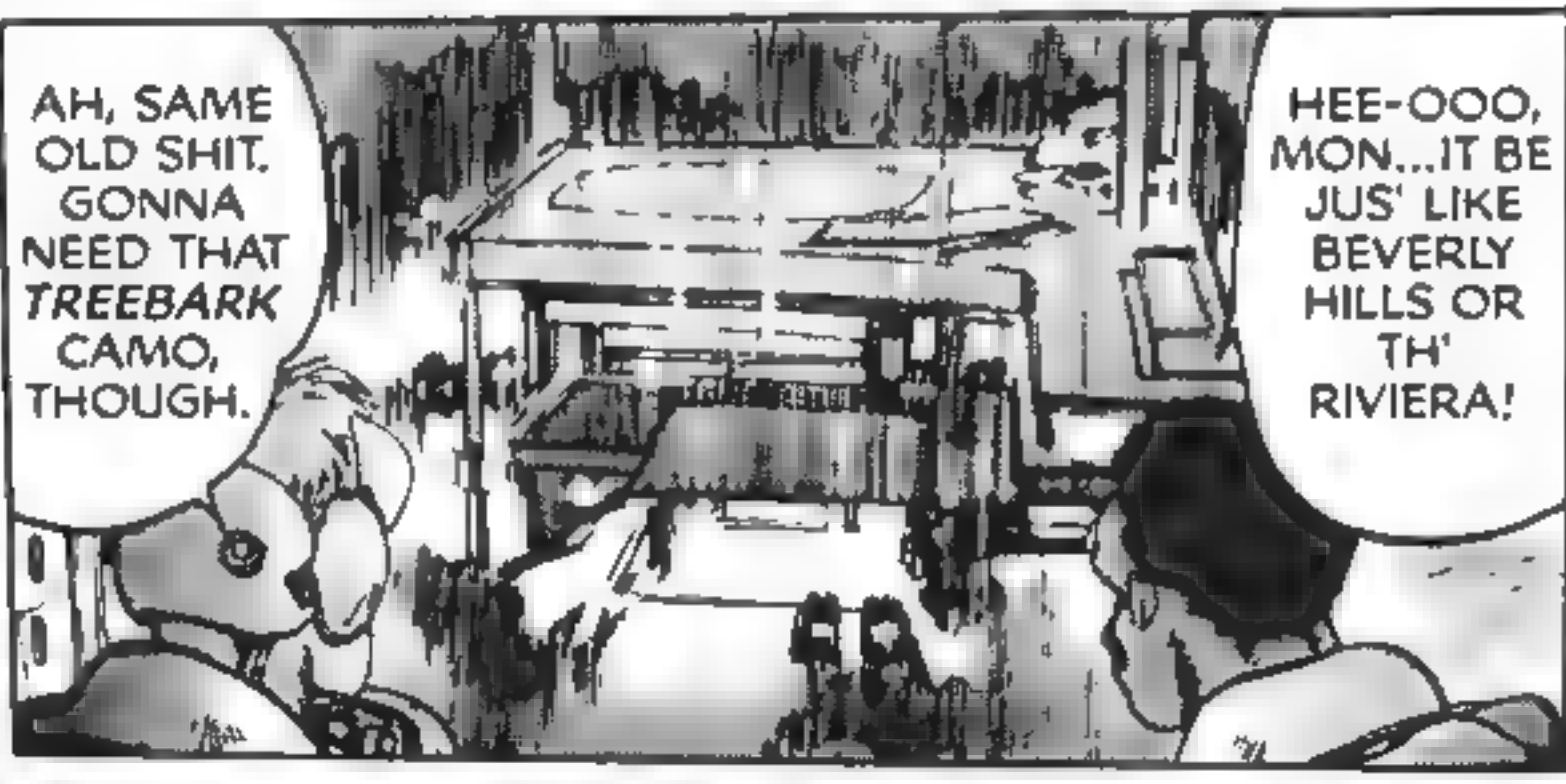
















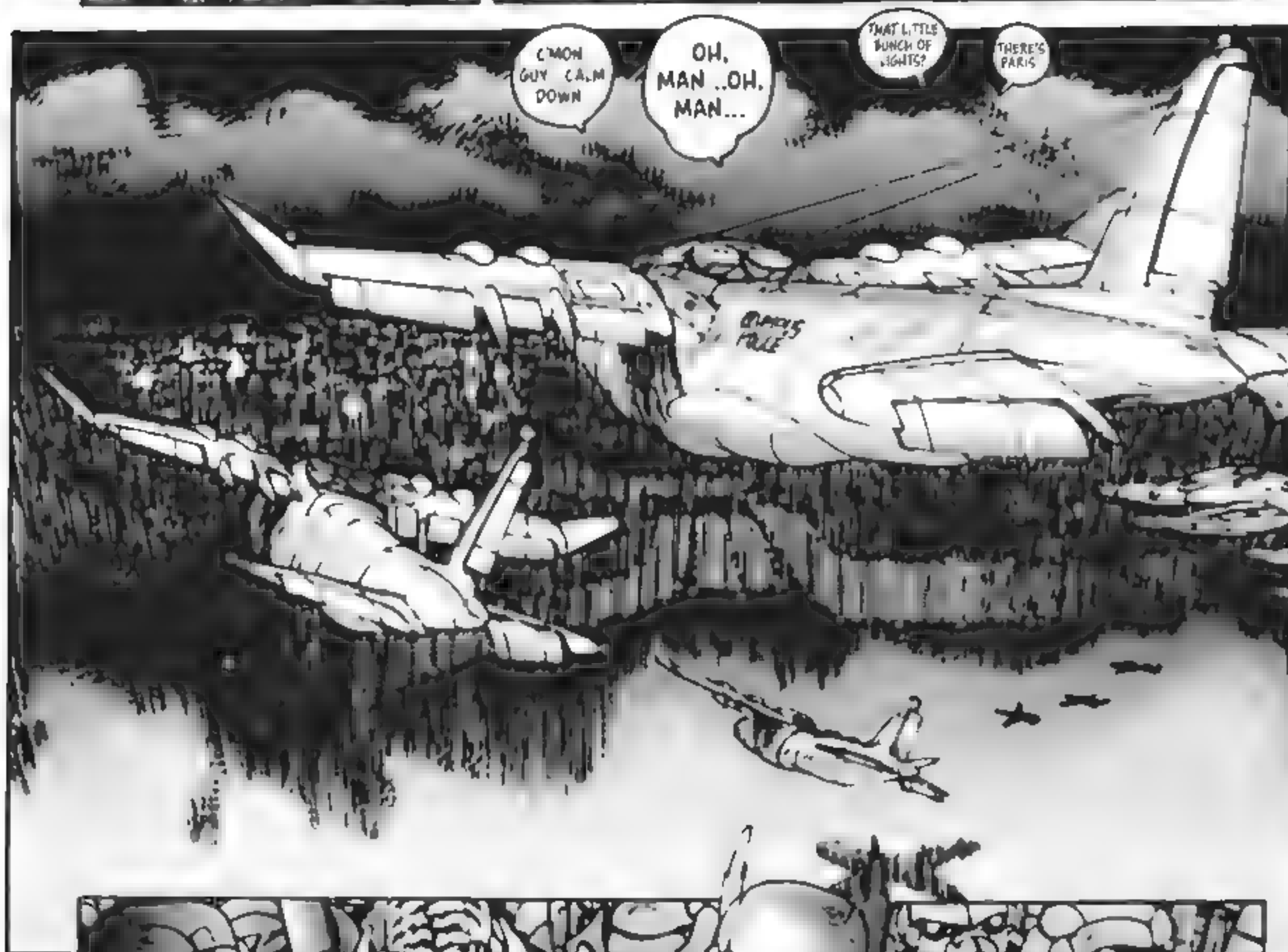




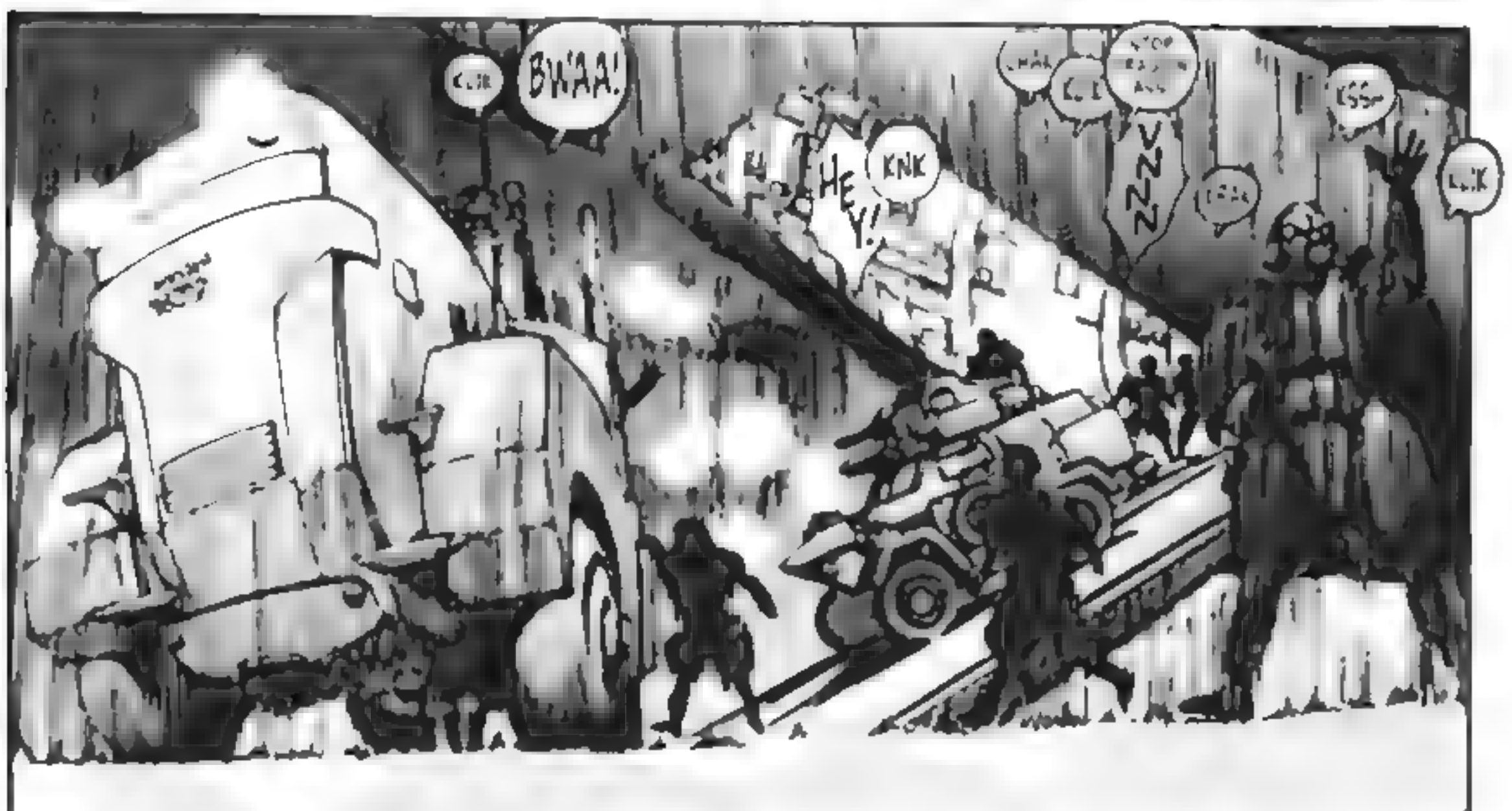


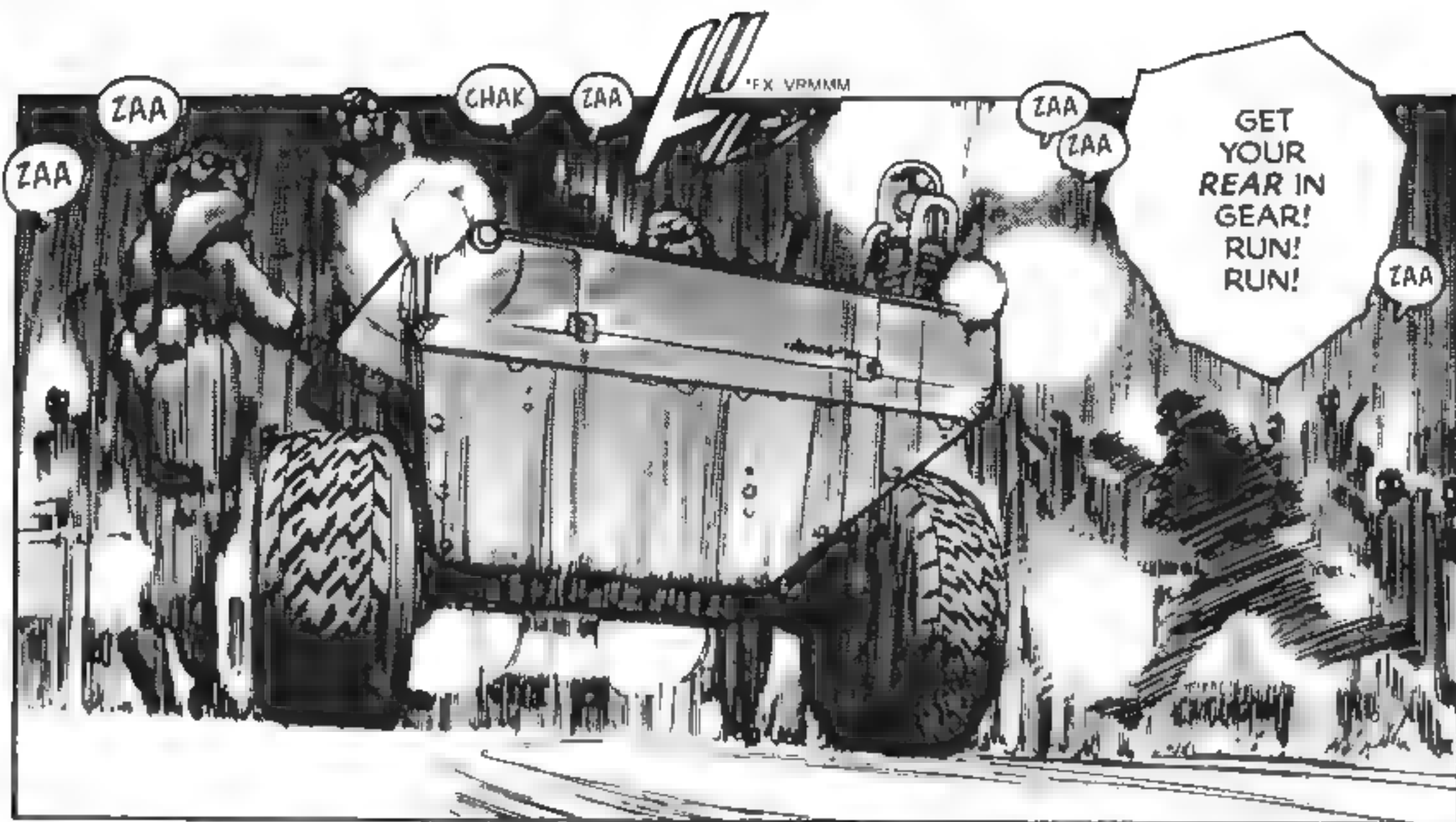
SHORT FOR ASSAULT FIGURE NO CONNECTION WITH THE FANGS OF THE GABONESE REPUBLIC THE DUM NANCE OF ELF GABON INT NUES



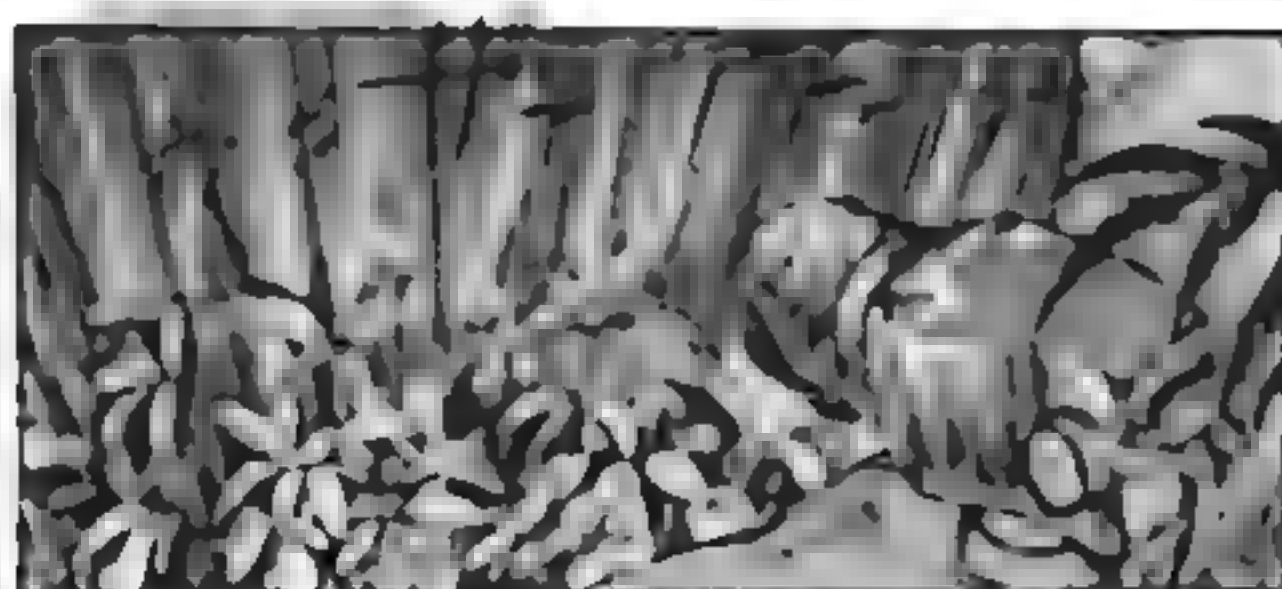


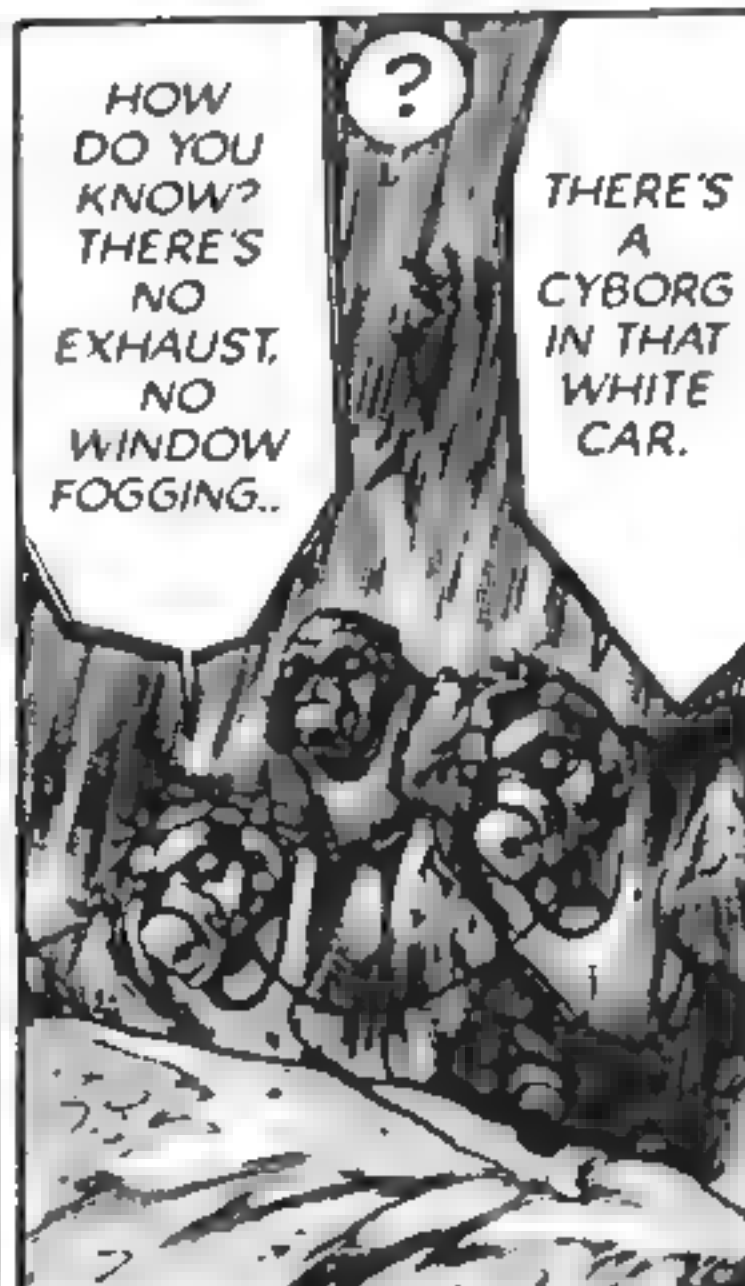
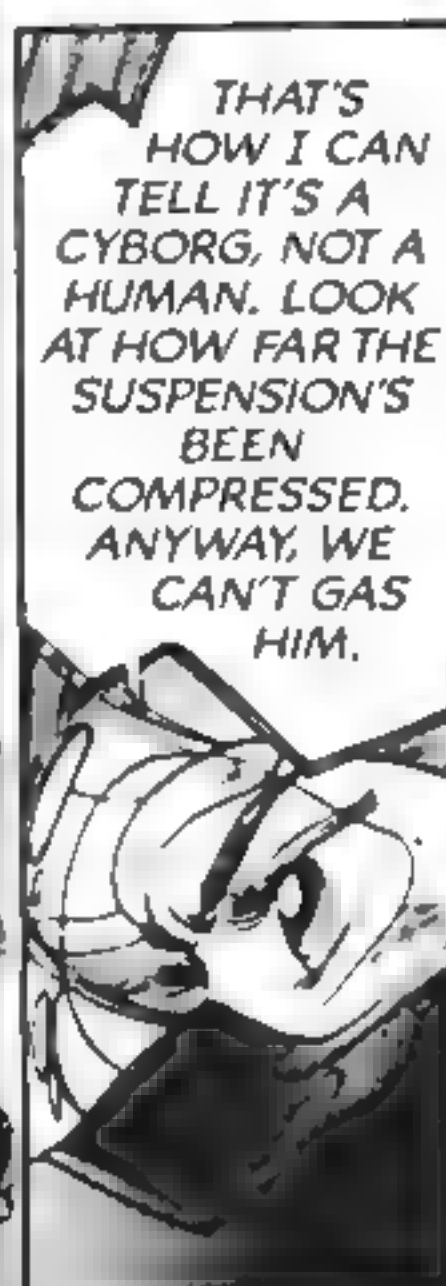
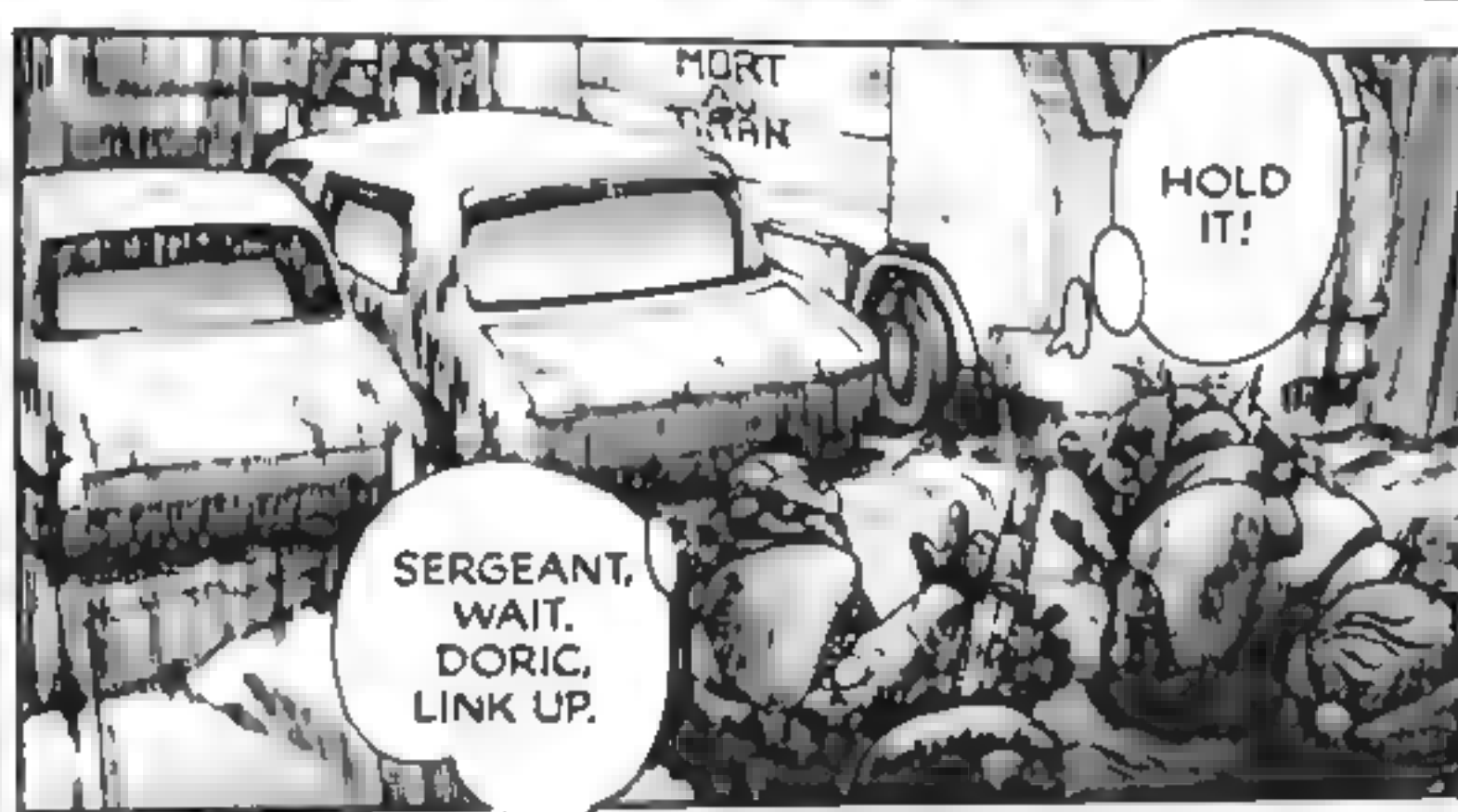
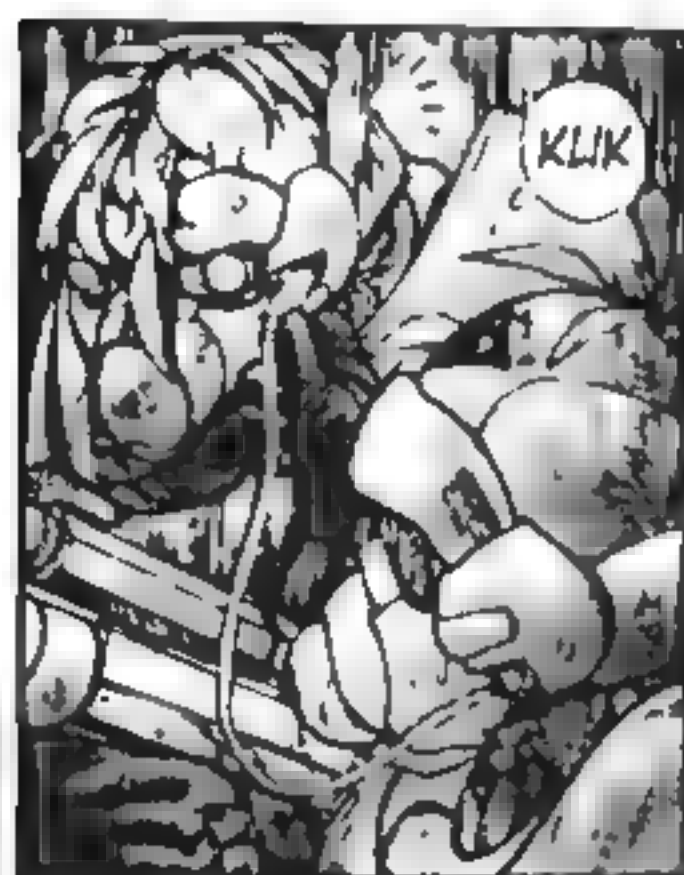




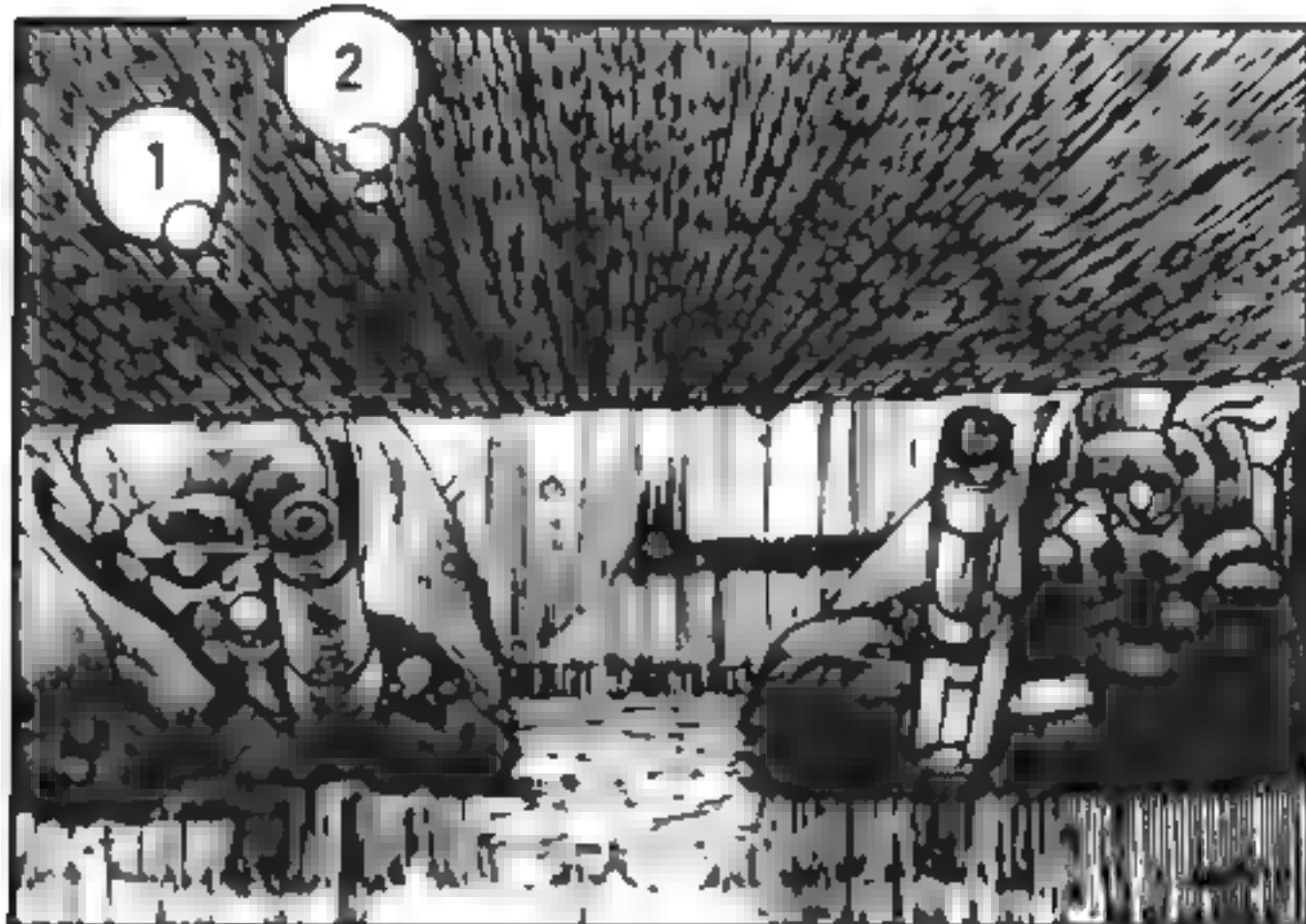












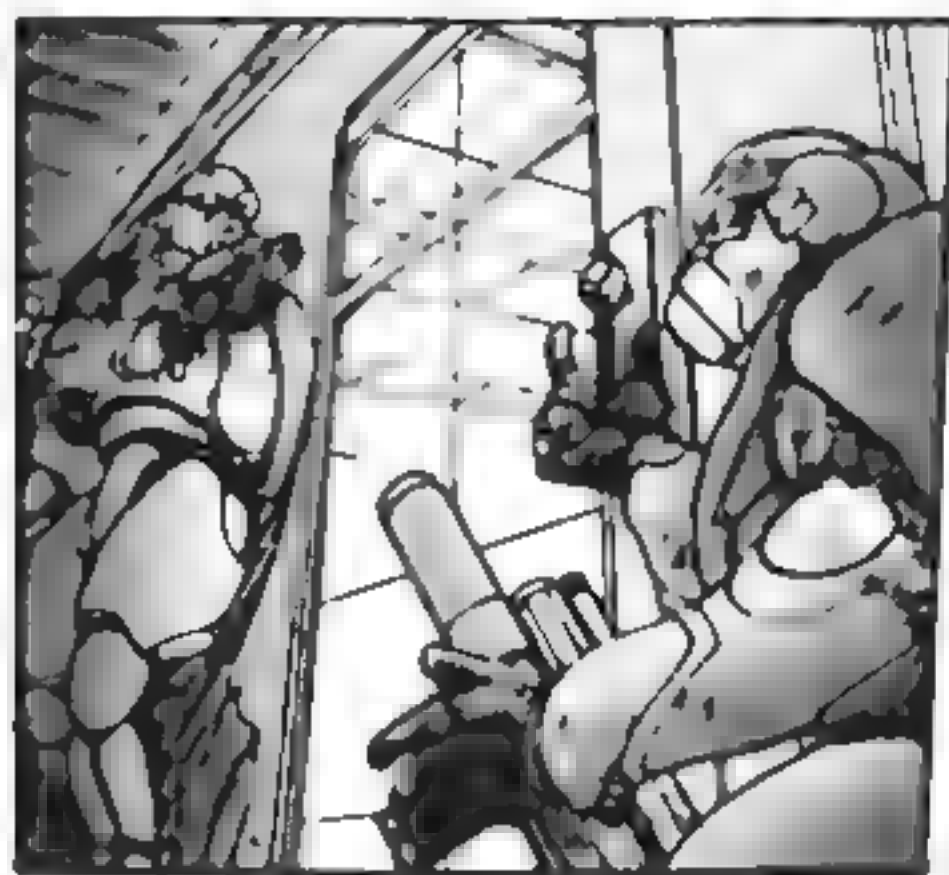
▲ Note Cyborgs are assumed to have radios built in—hence, no attempt at taking him alive



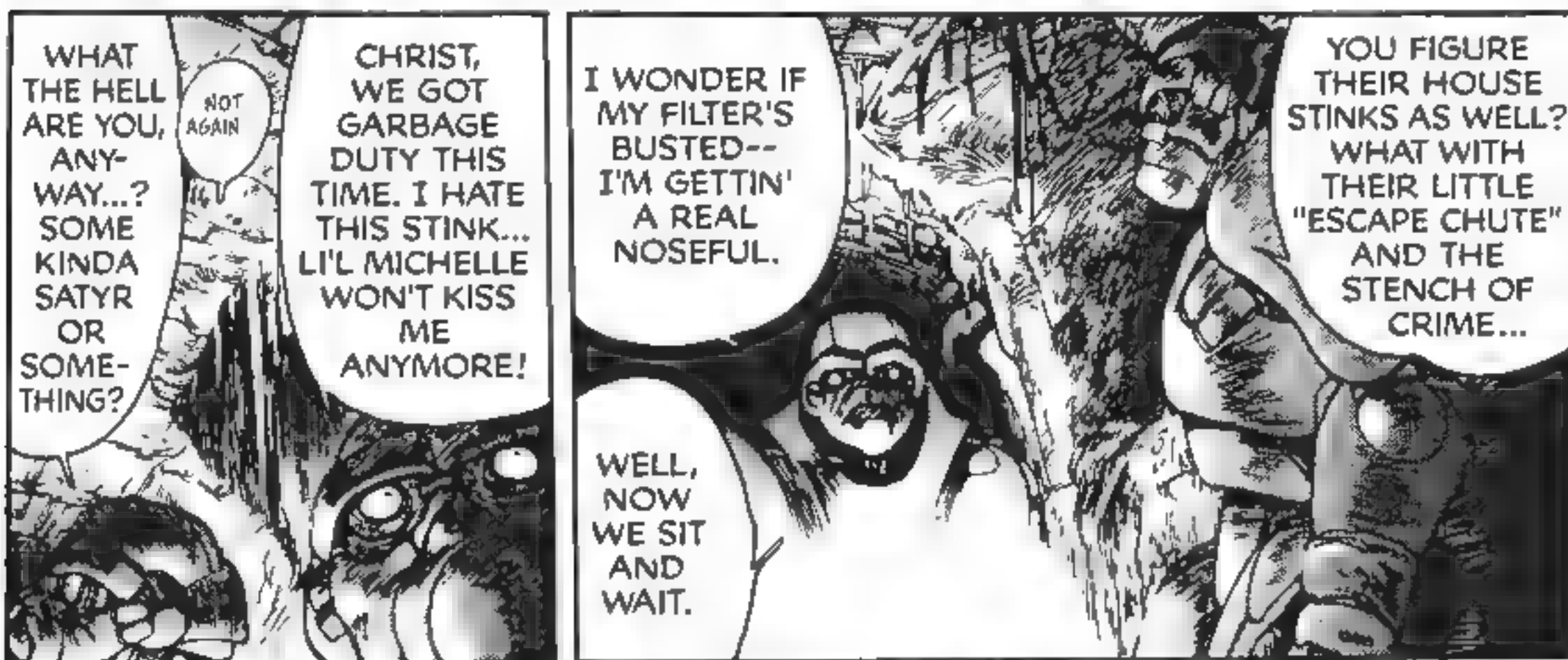
Note An A/S is the noise emitted by a physical event  
Orcs are equipped to monitor their comrades for the sound of breaking armor



▲ Note Following this op a green beret cyborgs were required to have their heartbeats monitored. In contrast, the orc suits monitor acoustic signatures (A/S)









...FILE A  
PROTEST  
WITH  
THE  
MINISTRY.

THAT  
SORT OF THING  
DOESN'T WORK  
WHEN YOU'RE  
UP AGAINST  
COMBAT  
CYBORGS. IF  
YOU DON'T  
LIKE OUR  
TACTICS ..

IF WE WERE DOING  
IT, MES AMIS, WE'D  
QUIET THEM DOWN  
WITH GAS, SMOKE  
THEM OUT, ANYTHING  
TO AVOID BLOOD-  
SHED! EVEN BEFORE  
WE WENT THAT  
FAR, WE'D USE  
BULL-  
HORNS...



CONFLICT  
BETWEEN  
NATIONS IS USED  
AS AN EXCUSE  
TO LEGITIMIZE  
ANY CRIME. IT'S  
TIME TO PUT AN  
END TO  
BORDERS!

HLK--!

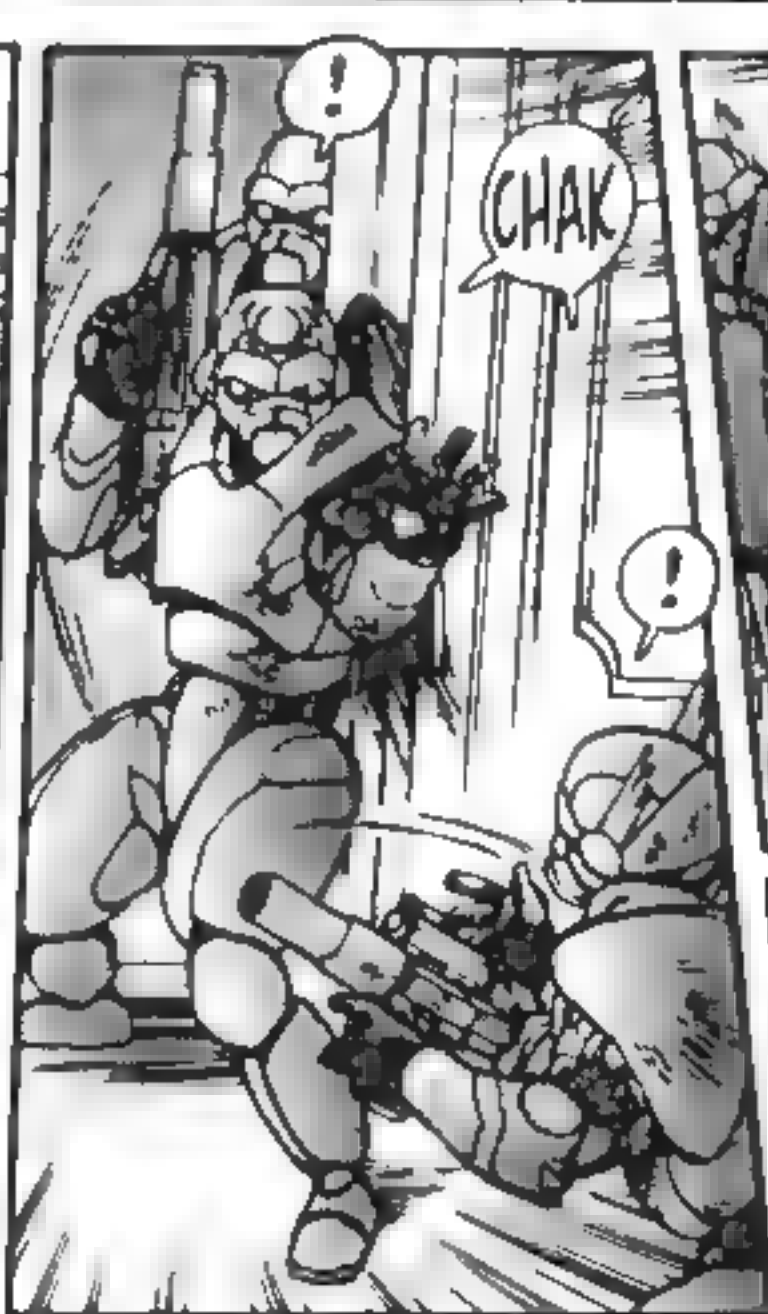


ALL  
SQUADS,  
LINK INTO  
THE  
COMNET!  
3!

EXCUSE  
ME











ANYONE STUPID ENOUGH TO JOIN THIS BUNCH DESERVES TO BE POUNDED INTO FERTILIZER! AT LEAST THAT WAY HE'D HELP FEED SOME REFUGEES!

IF HE ISN'T POISONOUS ANYWAY.

JUST TAKE HIM OUT QUICK AND CLEAN! HE'S ONLY A HIRELING FOR--

YEAH, WHAT?

HEY! HEY!

KRAK!

WHFF!

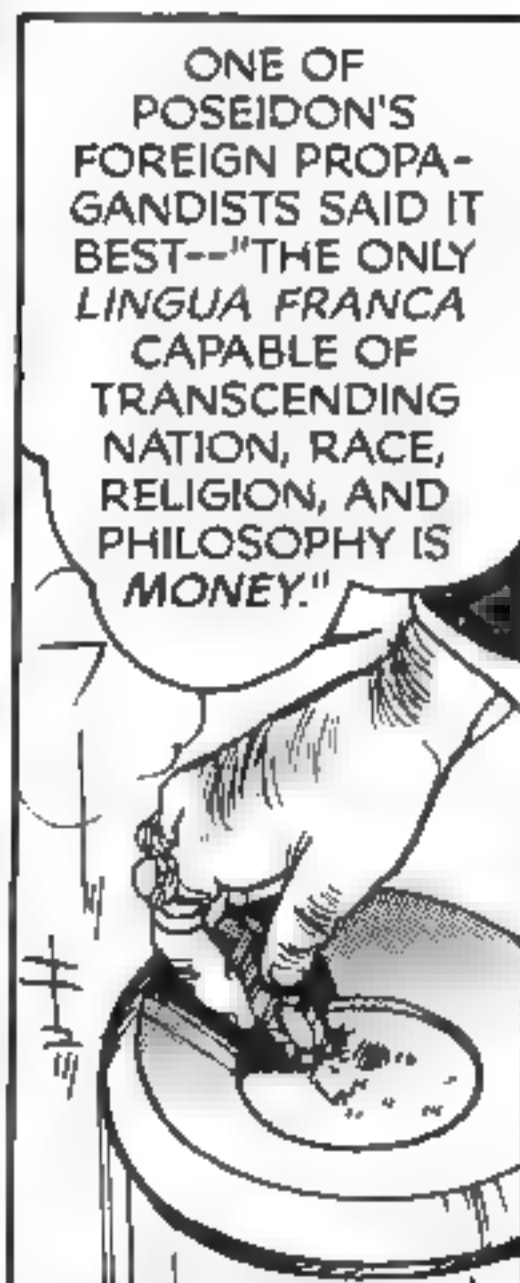
C2 CLEAR, ONE DEAD...

MY GUILT RUNS DEEPER THAN THE OCEAN. HEH, HEH.

CHECK OUT C4, THEN RUN BACKUP ON C12!

WHAT THE HELL'S WITH HER?! WEIRD LITTLE BRAT...MUST BE ON HER PERIOD.

WHAT'S SHE BEING SO HIGH AND MIGHTY ABOUT? FRIGID BITCH!



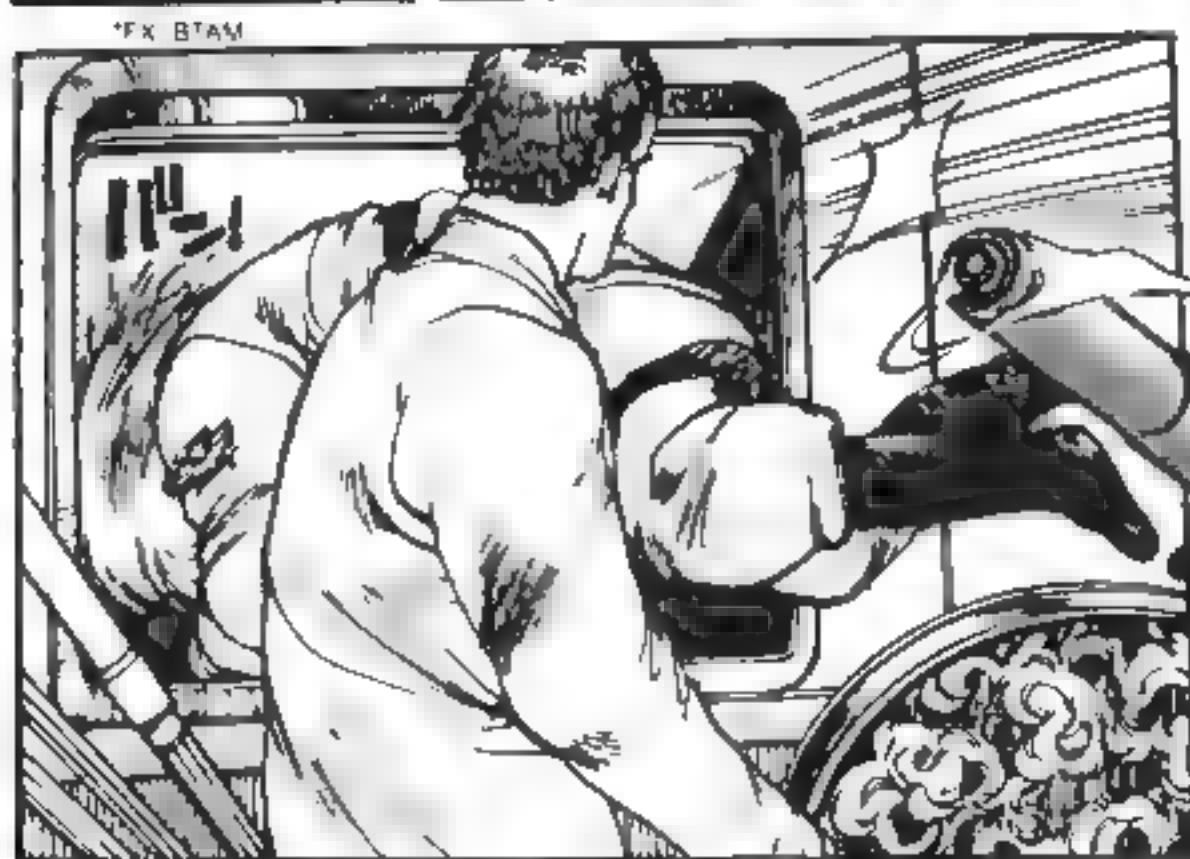
BUT AREN'T YOU CONCERNED THAT THIS MIGHT BRING THE ISLAMIC FEDERATION INTO THE FIGHTING? YOU CAN'T START GIVING THIS MUCH SUPPORT TO THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES AND NOT EXPECT RETALIATION. IN ANY CASE, I UNDERSTAND THE PARTICIPATION OF CENTRAL AMERICA HAS LEFT YOU AT A DISADVANTAGE VIS-A-VIS THE FEDERATED U.S.S.R., IS THIS REALLY WISE?



IF YOU'RE IN A HURRY, WE CAN USE THE DIPLOMATIC ROUTE. WE'RE MOVING \$700 MILLION THROUGH MIAMI ALONE--THAT'S MORE THAN OUR DEPARTMENT'S ENTIRE TAKE. PERHAPS IF YOU TALK DIRECTLY WITH POSEIDON...

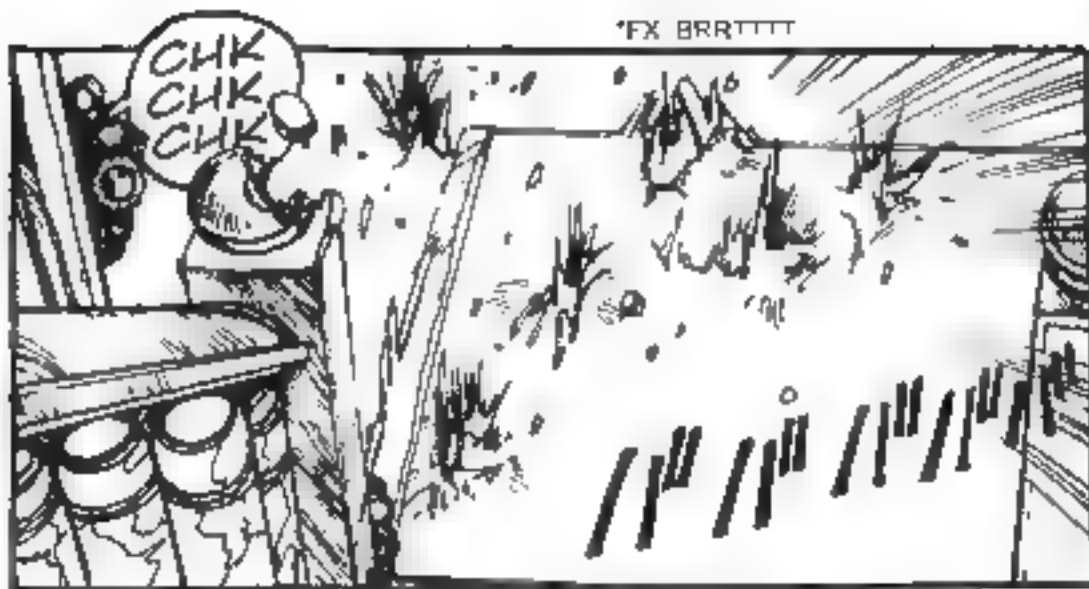






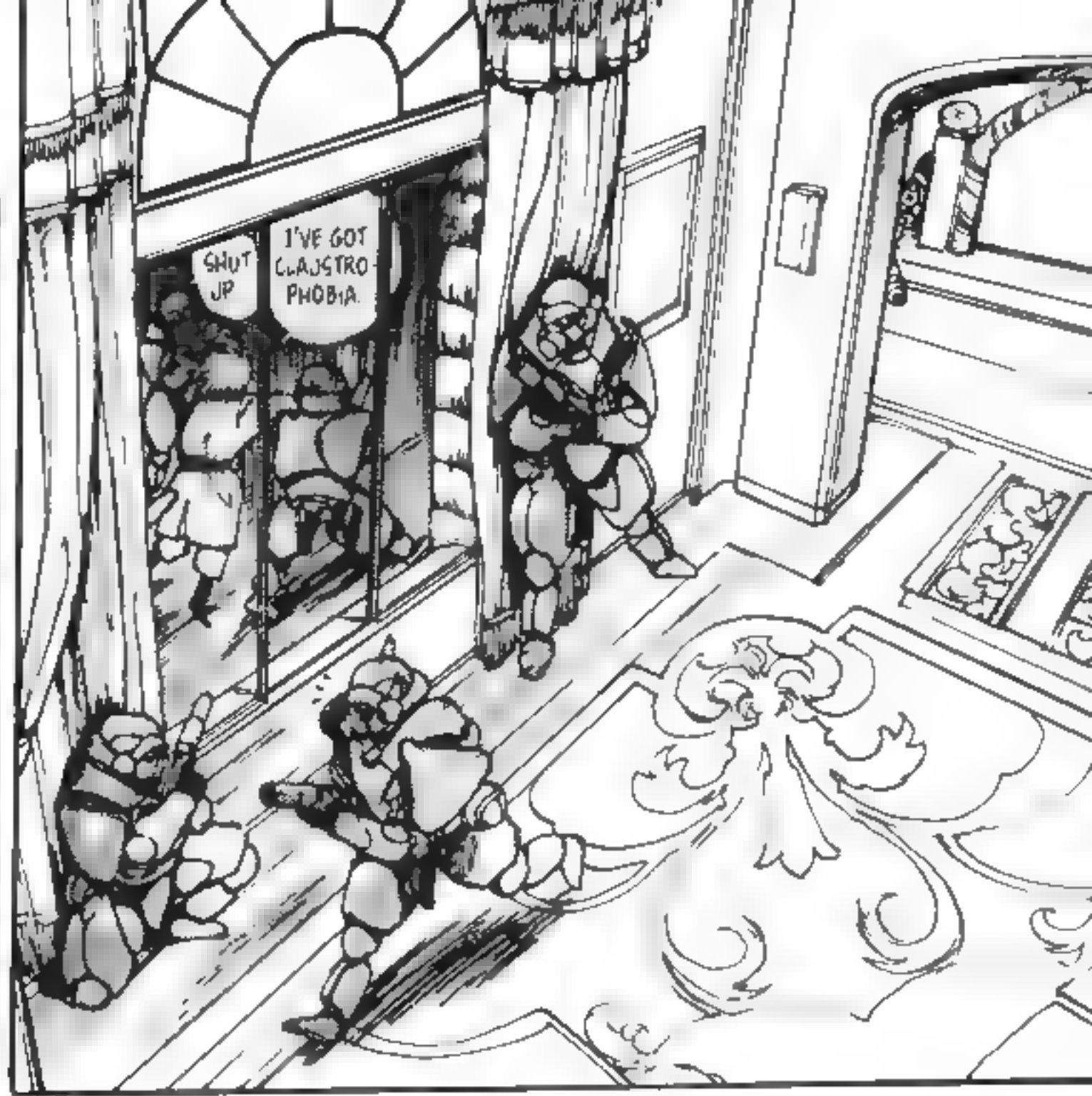


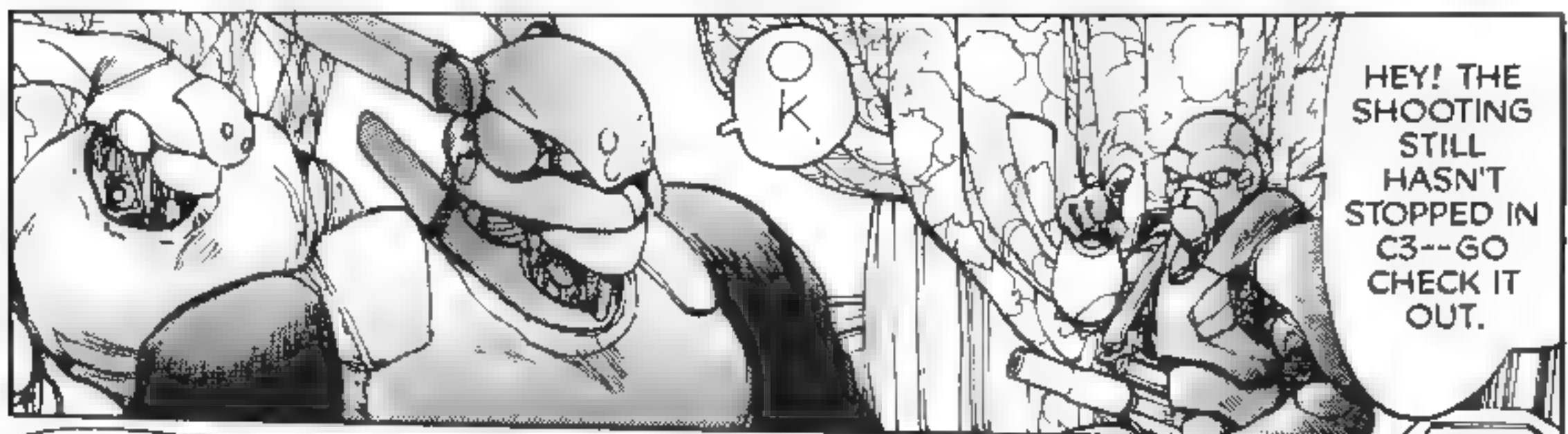






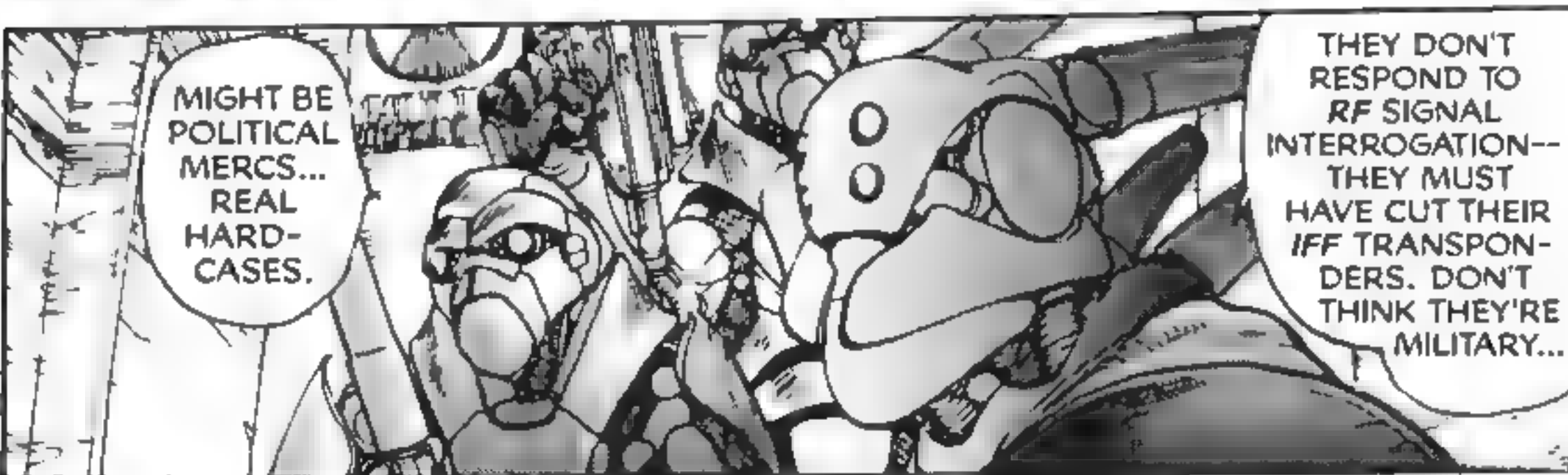
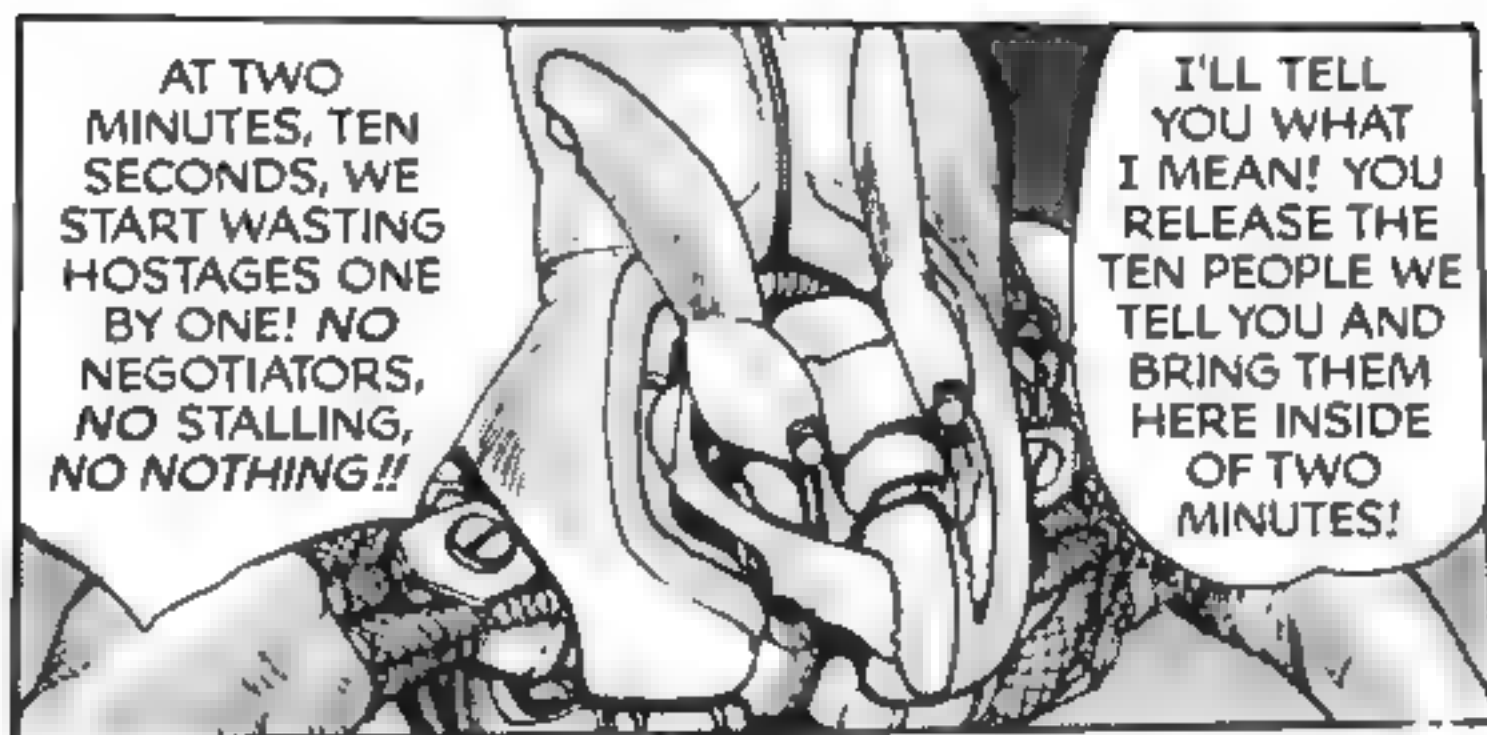














TELL YA WHAT...  
WE'LL SAVE YOU  
THE TROUBLE OF  
CHECKIN' ON  
THOSE VOICES.  
WE'LL JUST CRUSH  
UP A COUPLE OF  
THE HOSTAGES  
AND CHUCK 'EM  
OUT TO YOU...  
SEE IF THAT'S  
REAL, MAN!

WE'VE  
GOT PLENTY  
TO SPARE  
SO QUIT  
SCREWIN'  
AROUND!

WHY  
DON'T YOU  
ASK GOD  
FOR HELP,  
HUH?!

SKRK  
SKRK

AT LEAST  
GIVE US TIME  
TO CONFIRM  
THAT THOSE  
ARE REAL  
VOICES AND  
NOT A  
RECORDING!

OLYMPUS  
POLICE  
ESWAT

GEEZ,  
I...

WHAT  
THE  
HELL'S  
THAT?

SOUNDS  
GOOD  
TO ME.

THERE'S NO  
WAY THEY CAN  
GET AWAY WITH  
THAT MANY  
HOSTAGES. WE  
SHOULD JUST LET  
THEM GO, LOOK  
FOR AN OPEN-  
ING...

OLYMPUS  
POLICE  
ESWAT

WELL,  
WELL...  
GLAD  
I CAME  
OUT  
FOR A  
LOOK.

NICE  
NIGHT,  
EH?

SHIT!

HEY, THE  
GANG'S  
ALL HERE!  
HOWDY  
DO,  
BOYS!

"ZASH"



DON'T SHOOT!

HOLD IT!

WE'LL DISMANTLE YOU, ASS-HOLE!



YEAH, I HEARD ALL ABOUT YOU GUYS... KEEP ADDING ON TERMINALS AND YOU CAN RUN A GODDAMN AIRCRAFT CARRIER BY YOURSELVES. THE MONSTER WITH AN OCTOPUS BRAIN-STEM.

ALL THOSE ATTACHMENTS... YOU MUST BE A HECATON-CHIRES.



ALL RIGHT, YOU JERKS! DISMANTLE HIM!



SON OF A BITCH PROBABLY HAS AN AUGMENTED BRAIN. YOU GUYS DISMANTLE HIM AND WE'LL LET HALF THE HOSTAGES GO.

LOOK, THIS GUY'S NOT YOUR NORMAL FREAK.



FOUR!



I'M GONNA COUNT DOWN FROM FIVE.



THEY'VE GOT A HECATON-CHIRES. I'M GONNA SCRAP HIM.

DON'T HANG AROUND OUT THERE, PAN-HEIMER!





I'LL  
SHOW YOU  
HOW TO  
NEGOTIATE!

HER  
AGAIN??

HEY!

WATCH  
THIS...

\*FX CHIK



JUST  
HOLD  
ON A  
SECOND--  
YOU  
GUYS ARE  
SCREWING  
UP!



THAT'S  
WHAT  
I CALL  
AN  
EXCHANGE!

RELEASE  
ALL THE  
HOSTAGES  
RIGHT  
GODDAMN  
NOW, AND  
MAYBE WE  
WON'T KILL YOU  
TWO SHIT-  
HEELS!!



SO  
WHO  
THE  
HELL IS  
EVER  
GOING  
TO  
KNOW?!

WE  
CAN'T  
JUST--

JESUS,  
THERE  
GOES MY  
BONUS!  
ARE YOU  
CRAZY OR  
WHAT?!

SHE'S  
CRAZY...!



SHOOT  
ME AND  
FIFTY  
HOSTAGES  
ARE DEAD  
MEAT, YOU  
GOT IT?

DON'T  
GIVE ME  
THAT  
CRAP,  
DARLIN'.



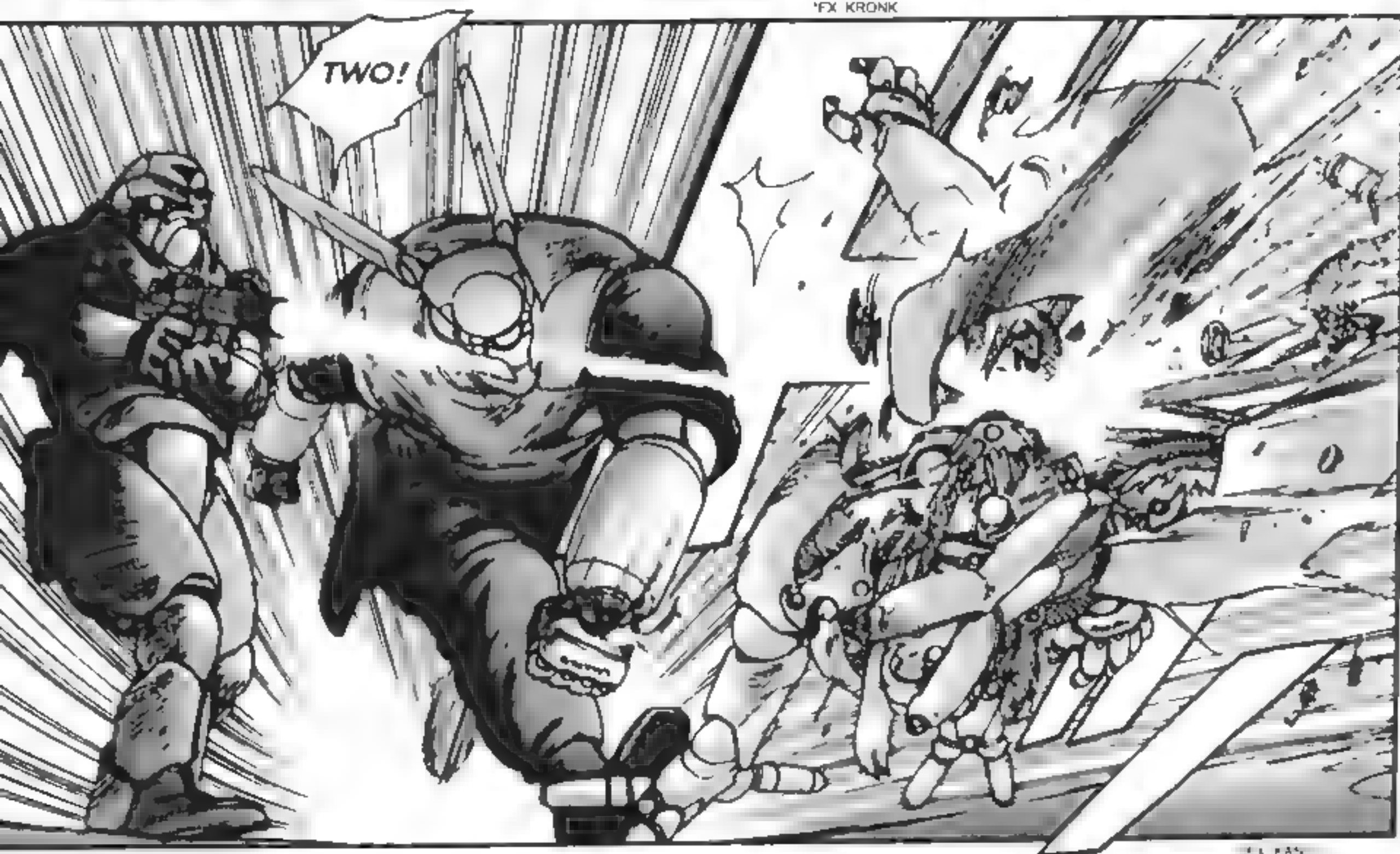
GO AHEAD,  
AND YOU DIE.  
OR YOU CAN  
RELEASE  
THEM AND  
BEG FOR  
YOUR LIVES,  
AND WE  
MIGHT LET  
YOU SEE  
TOMORROW.

-HFF-

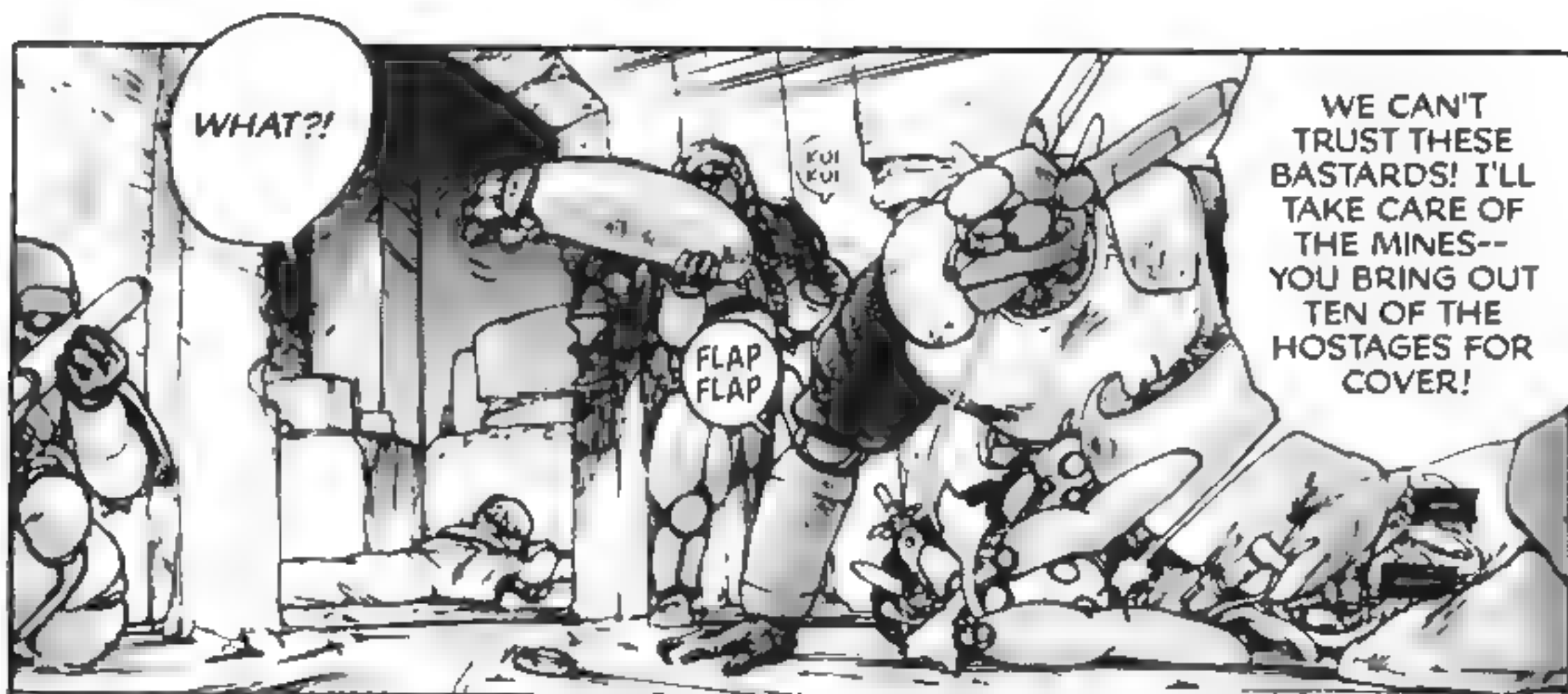
THIS ASSAULT'S  
A BLACK OP--  
TOTALLY  
DENIABLE. AND  
WE ALREADY GOT  
WHAT WE CAME  
FOR. SO YOU  
WANT TO BLOW  
AWAY THE  
HOSTAGES...?

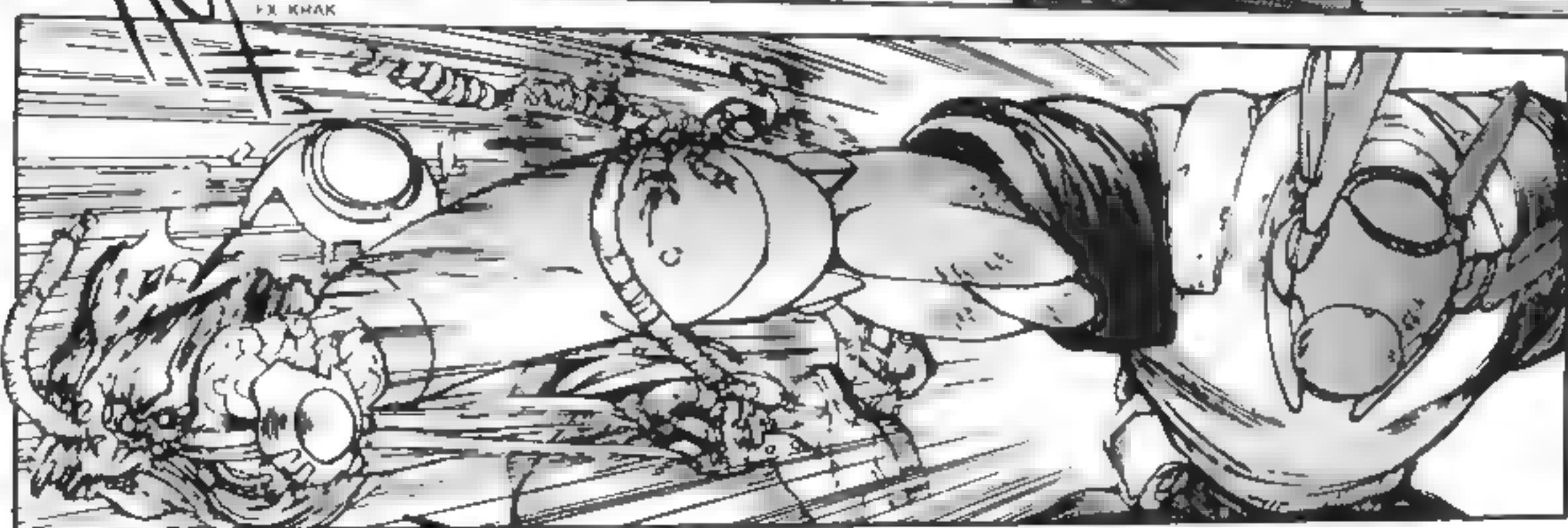
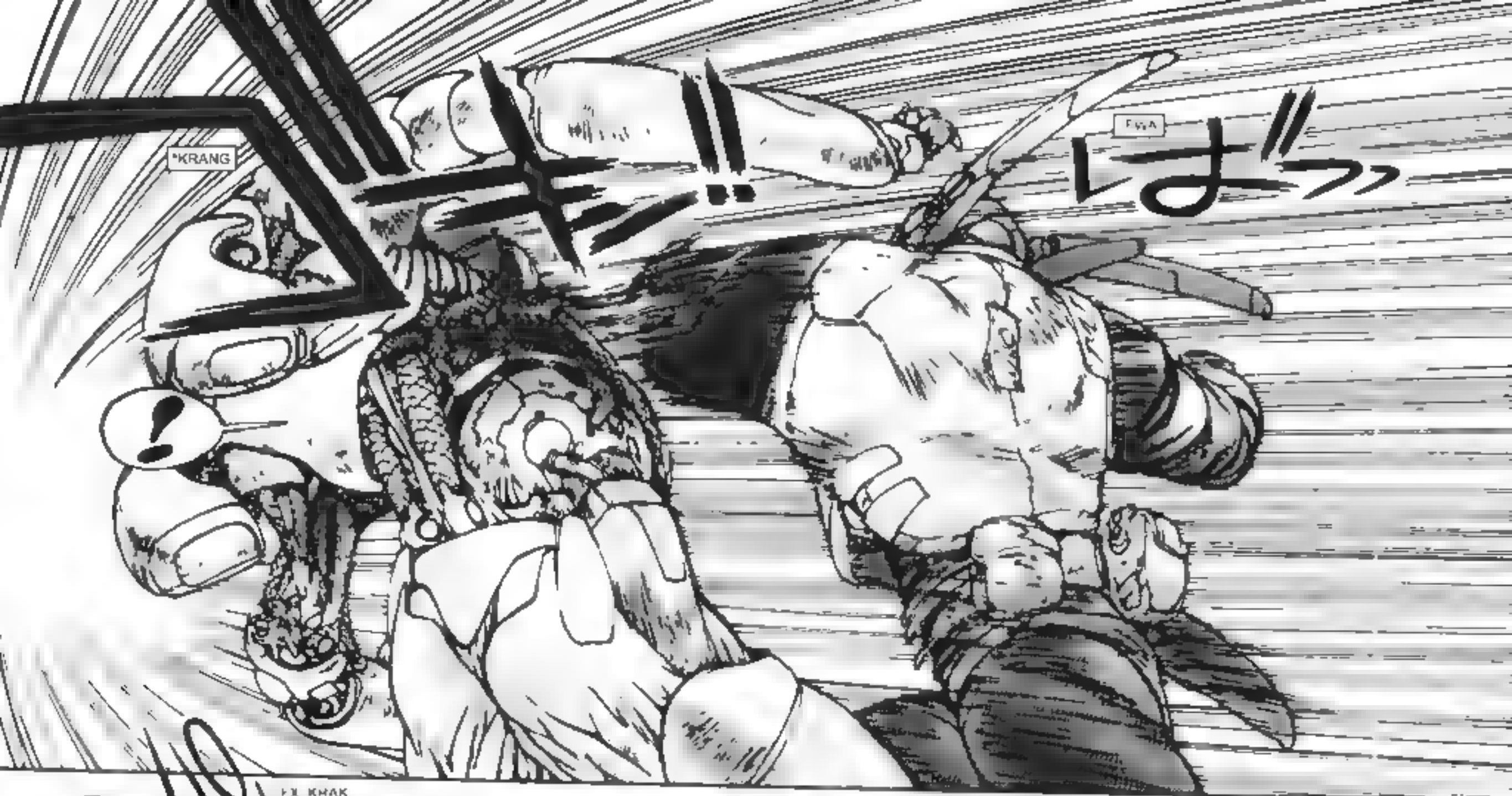


FX KRONK

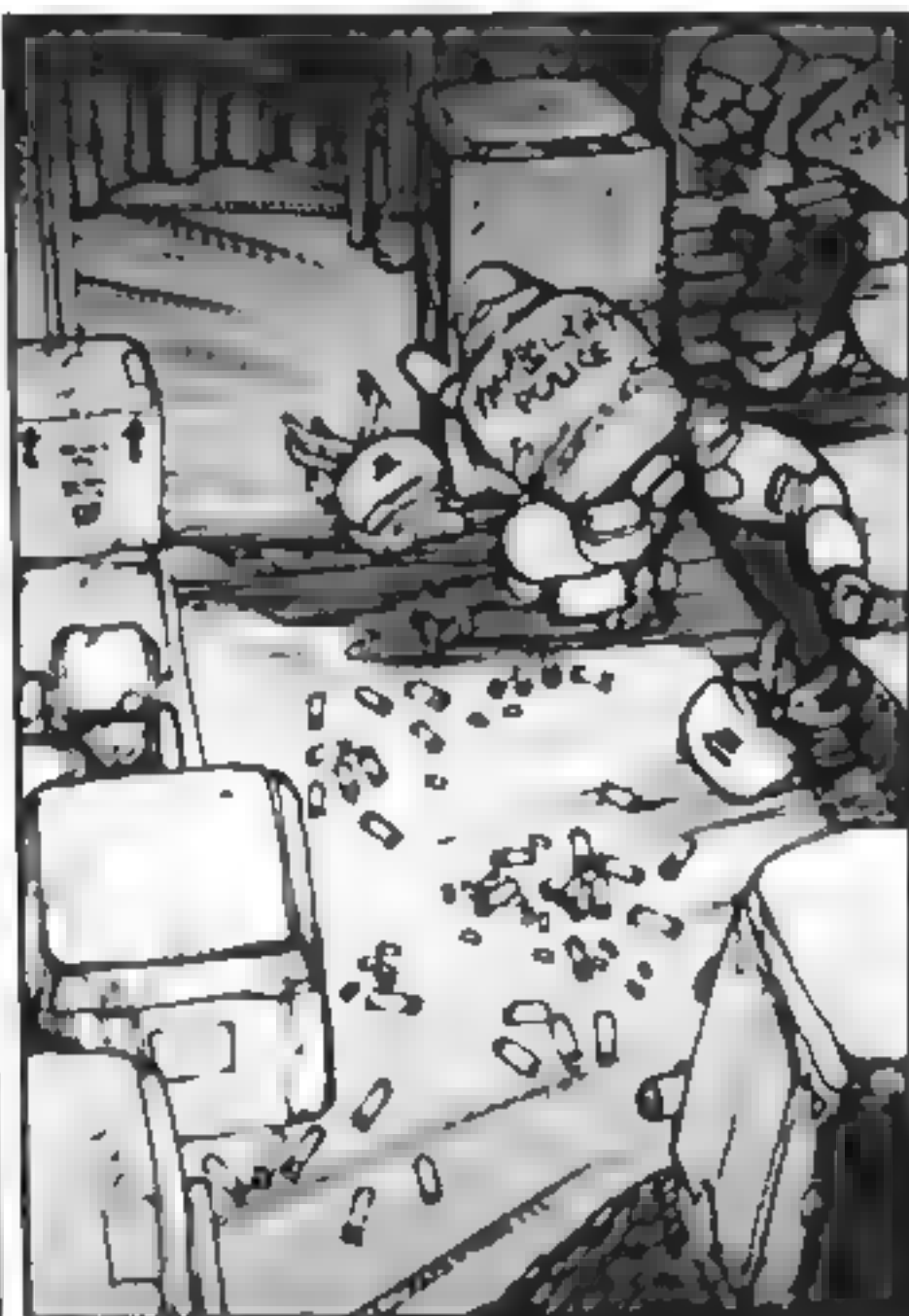
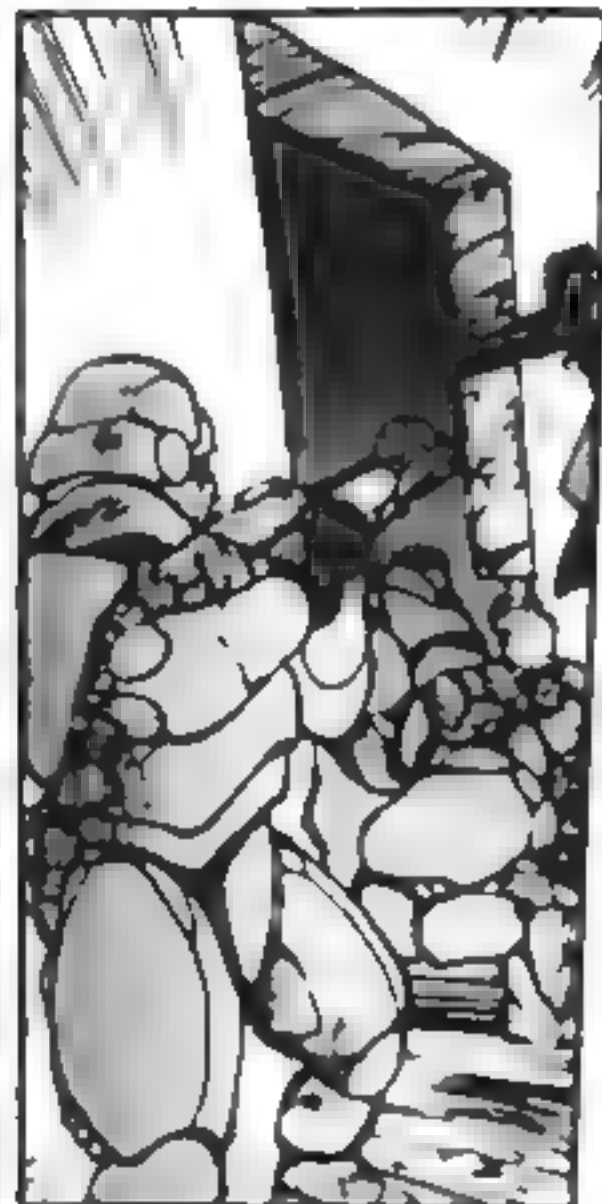










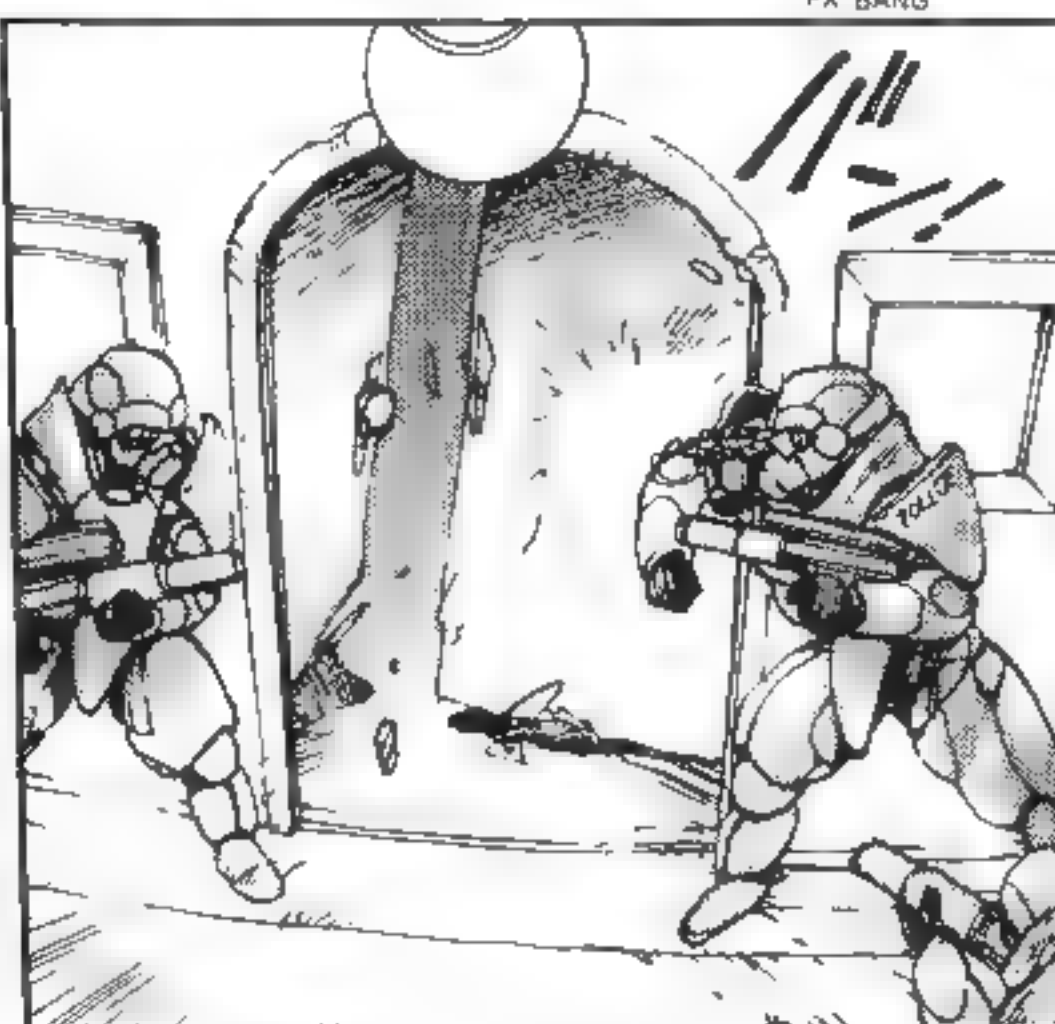




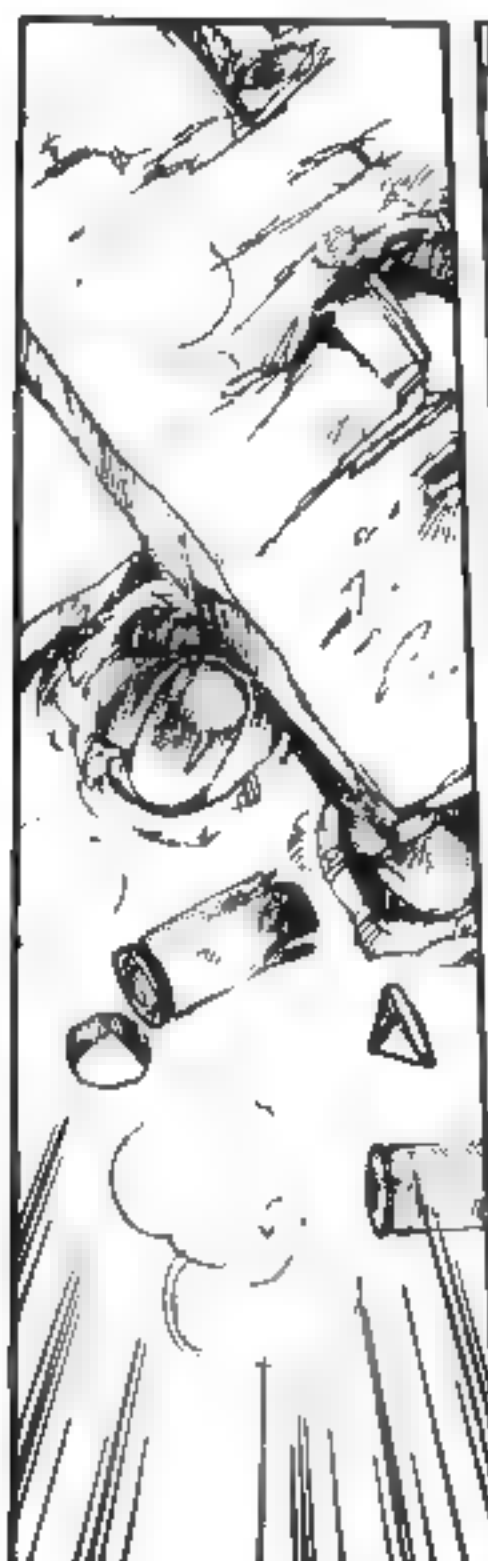
\*FX BOMF

\*FX BOMF

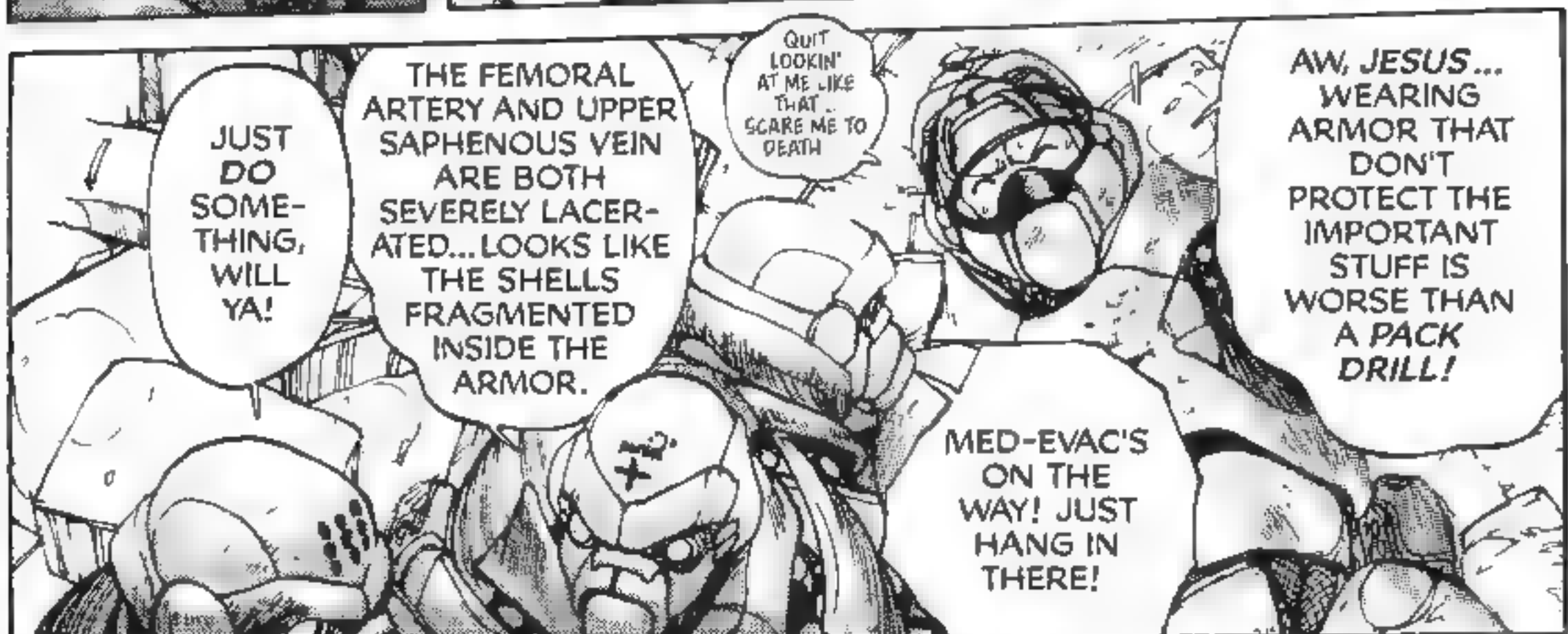
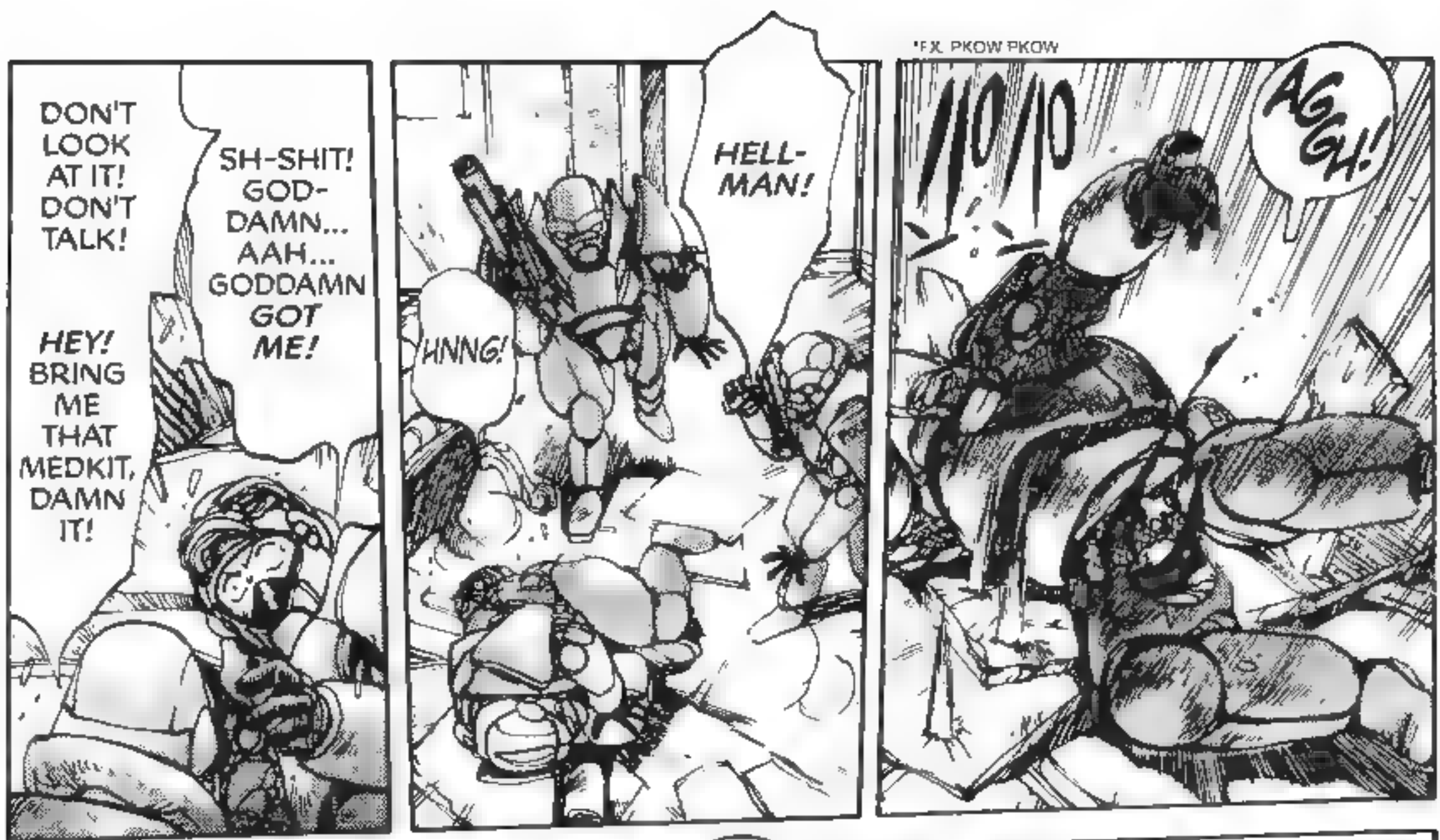
FX BANG



\*FX PKOW PKOW PKOW







\*FX: FWAK

\*FX: WHKOOM

SPAK

\*FX: KRAK KRAK

\*FX: PRAK \*FX: GTONK

DON'T WORRY... THE GUY WHO SET THOSE TRAPS IS ABOUT TO "VOLUNTEER" TO DISARM THEM.

MIGHT BE AN AMMO DUMP HERE Y'KNOW.

WHY DON'T WE USE A FLAME-THROWER?

THOSE GUYS ARE MAKIN' US LOOK LIKE IDIOTS!

WHA... WHAT THE HELL?! SON OF A BITCH!!

SPRAK

YOU'RE A CLEVER BASTARD... THIS AIN'T FAIR, DAMN IT!

PISSES ME OFF...!

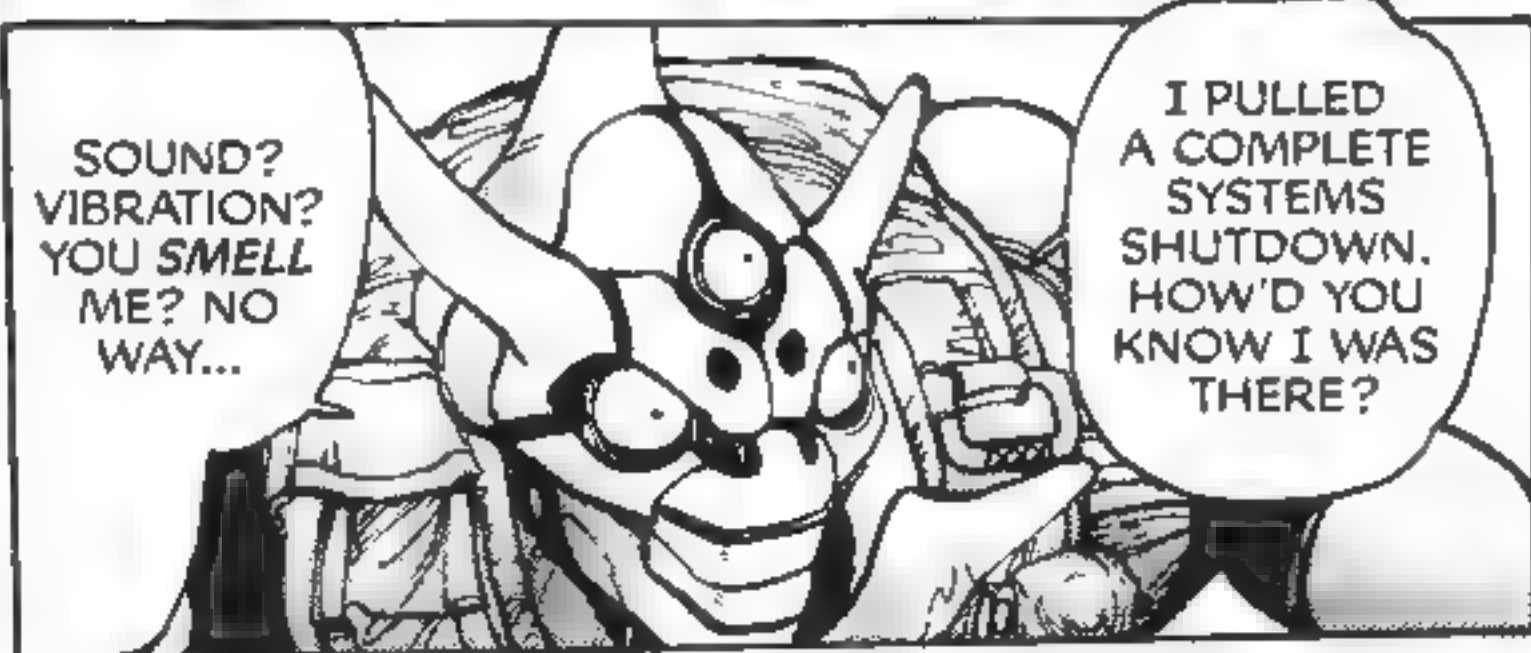
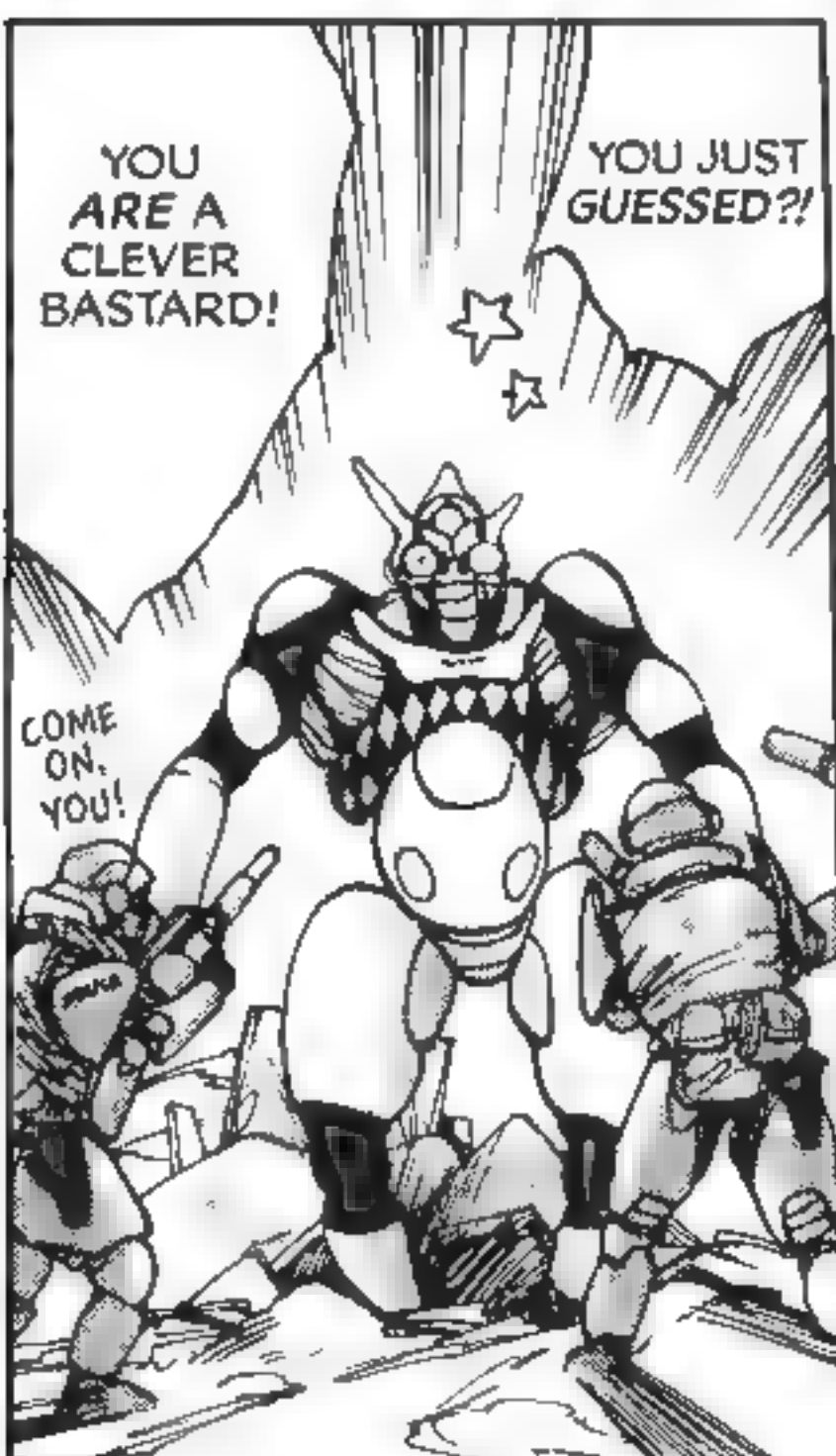
CHAK

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, PAL?! OR MAYBE YOU'D RATHER DIE UNDER THAT PILE OF RUBBLE...?





FX CLUNK



YES, SIR.

POLICE

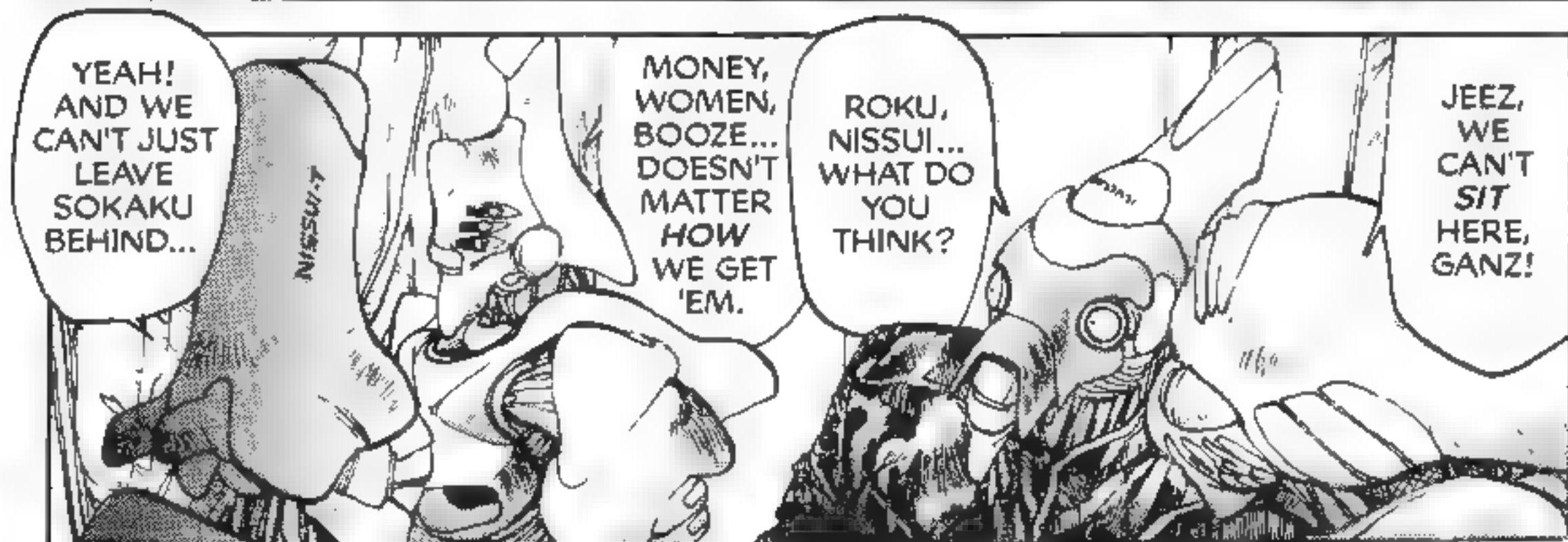


NOTHIN'.  
THE FROGS  
HADN'T  
EVEN  
HIRED US  
YET.

WH...  
WHAT'RE  
WE  
GONNA  
DO?

THAT  
BOOBY  
TRAP  
BOOBY...!

SOKAKU  
GOT  
HIMSELF  
CAUGHT.



YEAH!  
AND WE  
CAN'T JUST  
LEAVE  
SOKAKU  
BEHIND...

MONEY,  
WOMEN,  
BOOZE...  
DOESN'T  
MATTER  
HOW  
WE GET  
'EM.

ROKU,  
NISSUI...  
WHAT DO  
YOU  
THINK?

JEEZ,  
WE  
CAN'T  
SIT  
HERE,  
GANZ!



RIGHT,  
THEN. DROP  
YOUR GEAR,  
GENTLE-  
MEN--  
LOOKS  
LIKE WE'RE  
GOING TO  
OLYMPUS.

CHAK

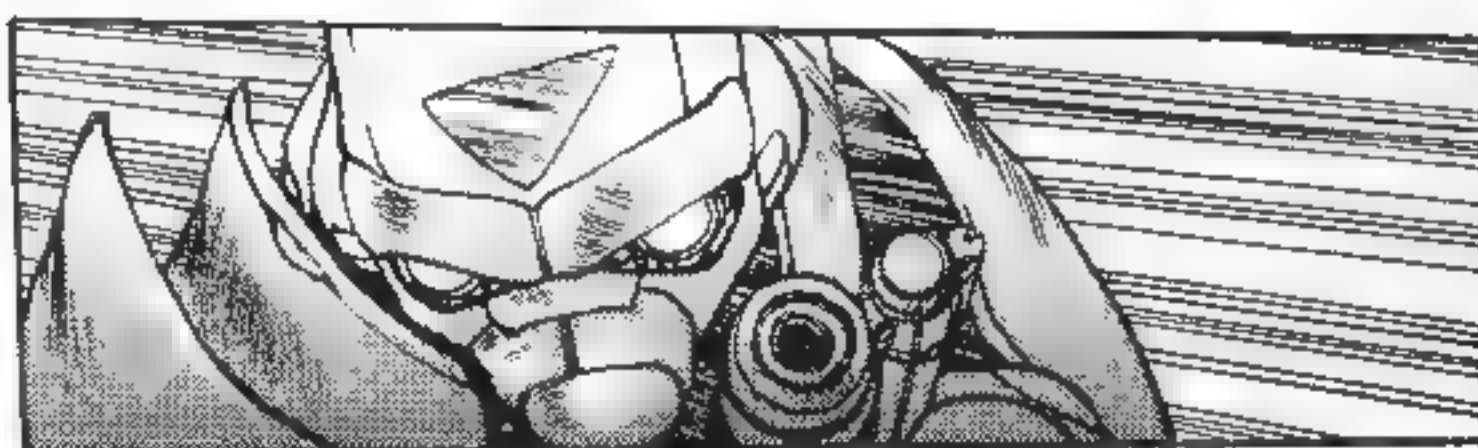
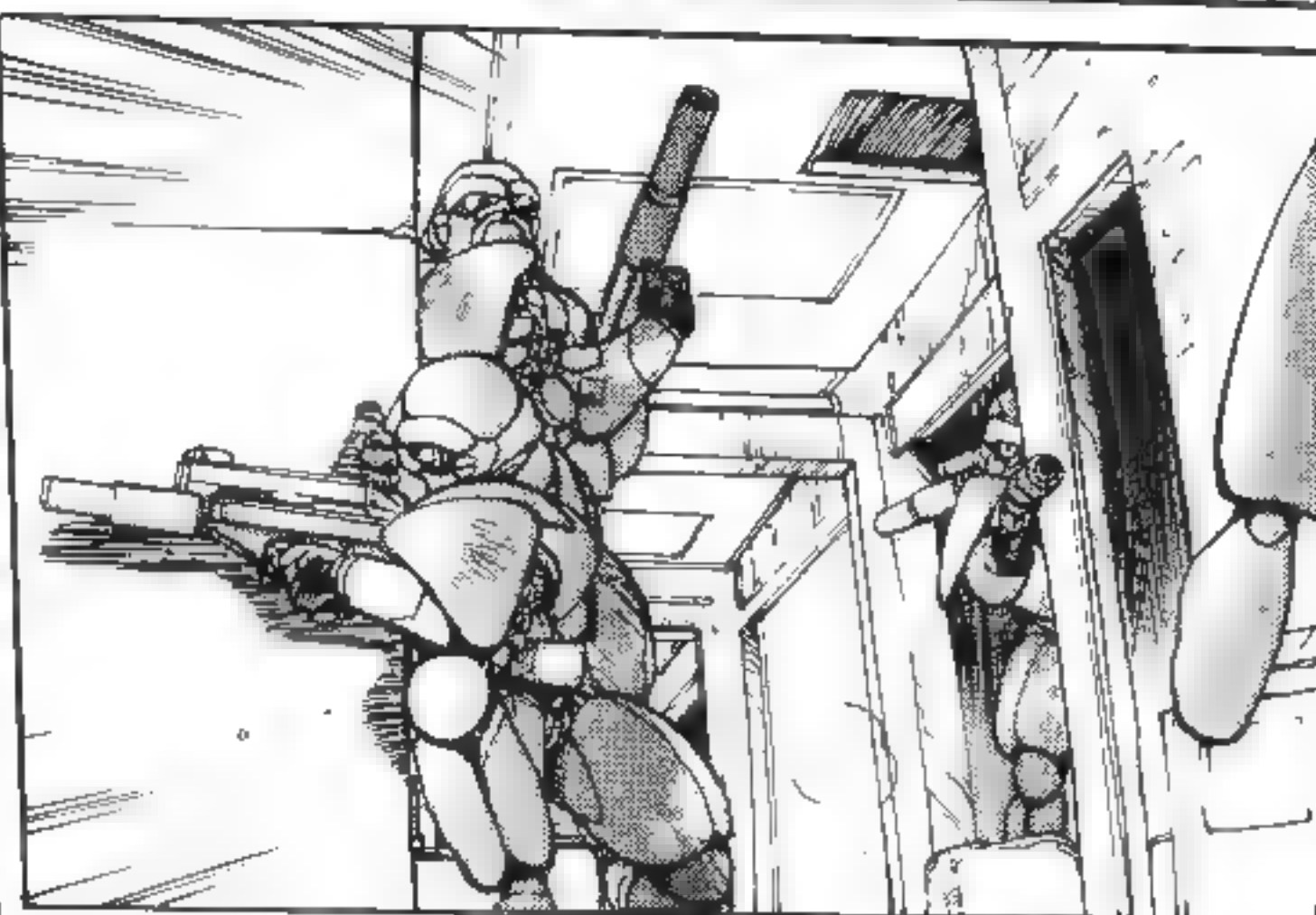
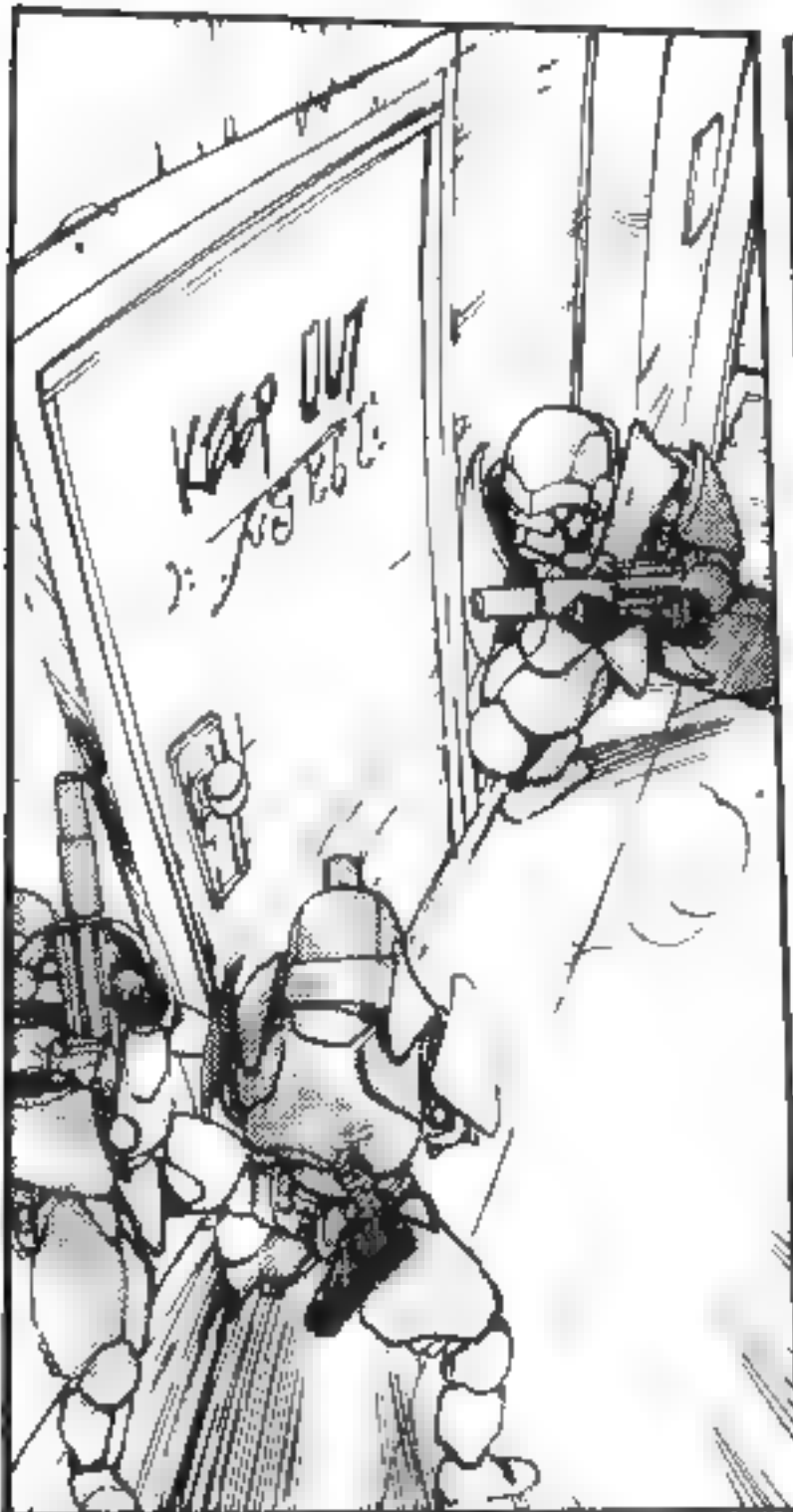


I DON'T  
WANT A  
SHOOTING  
MATCH.  
HOW  
ABOUT  
YOU  
GUYS?

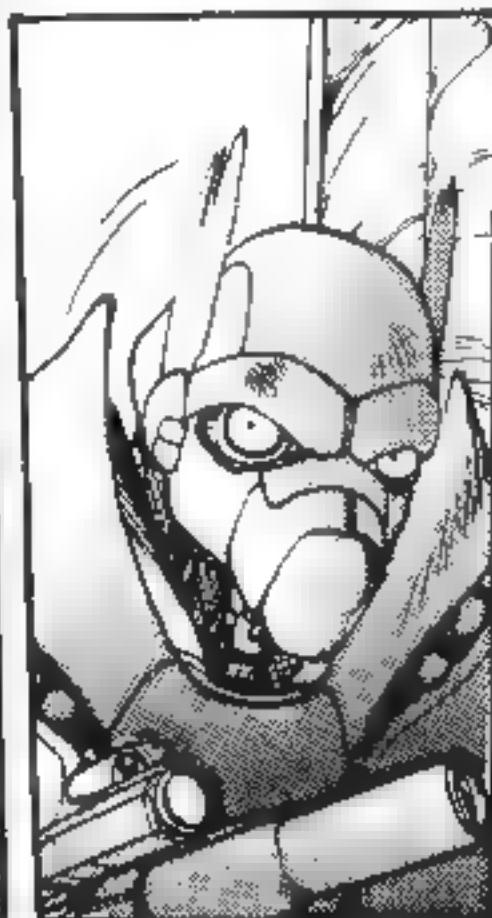
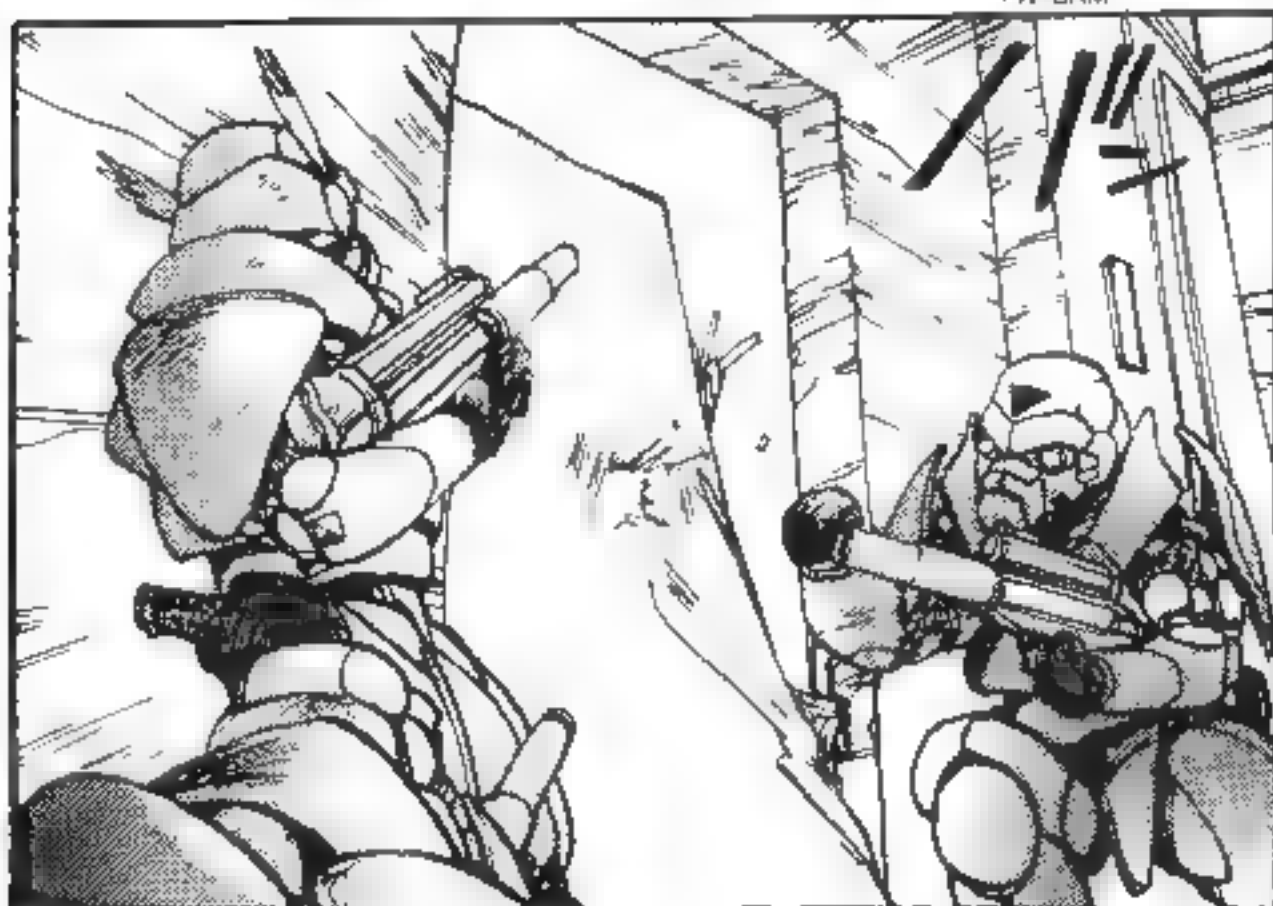


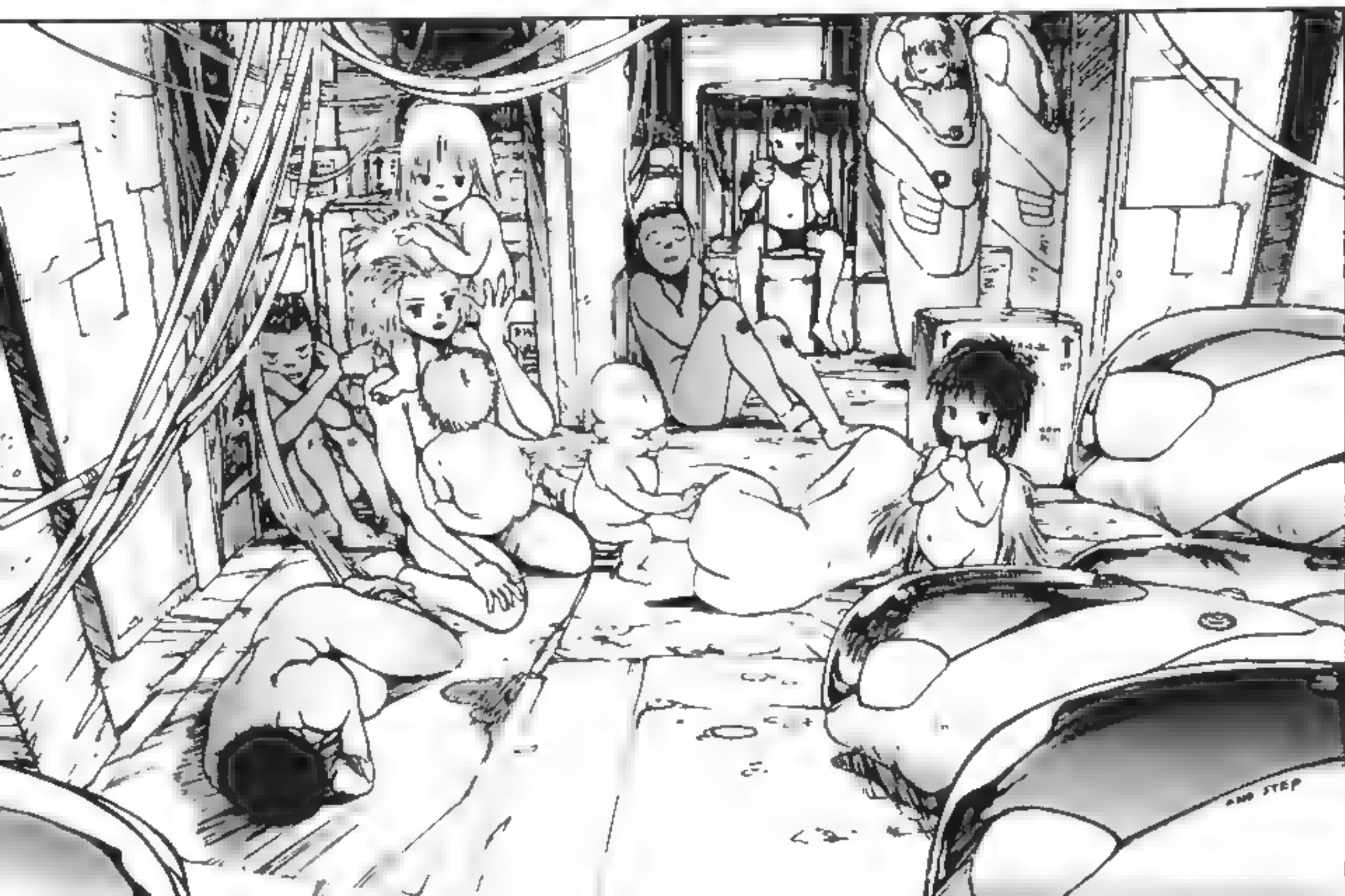
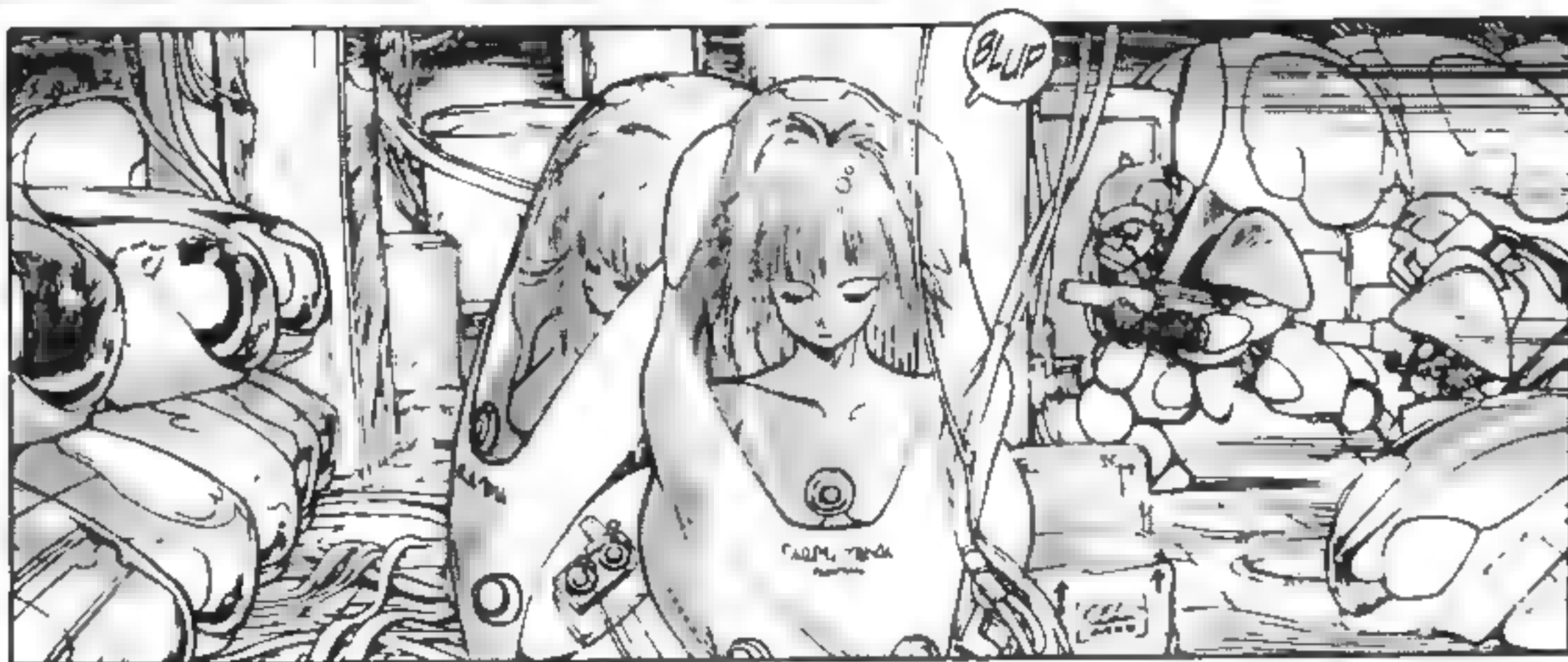
MAJORITY  
RULES...



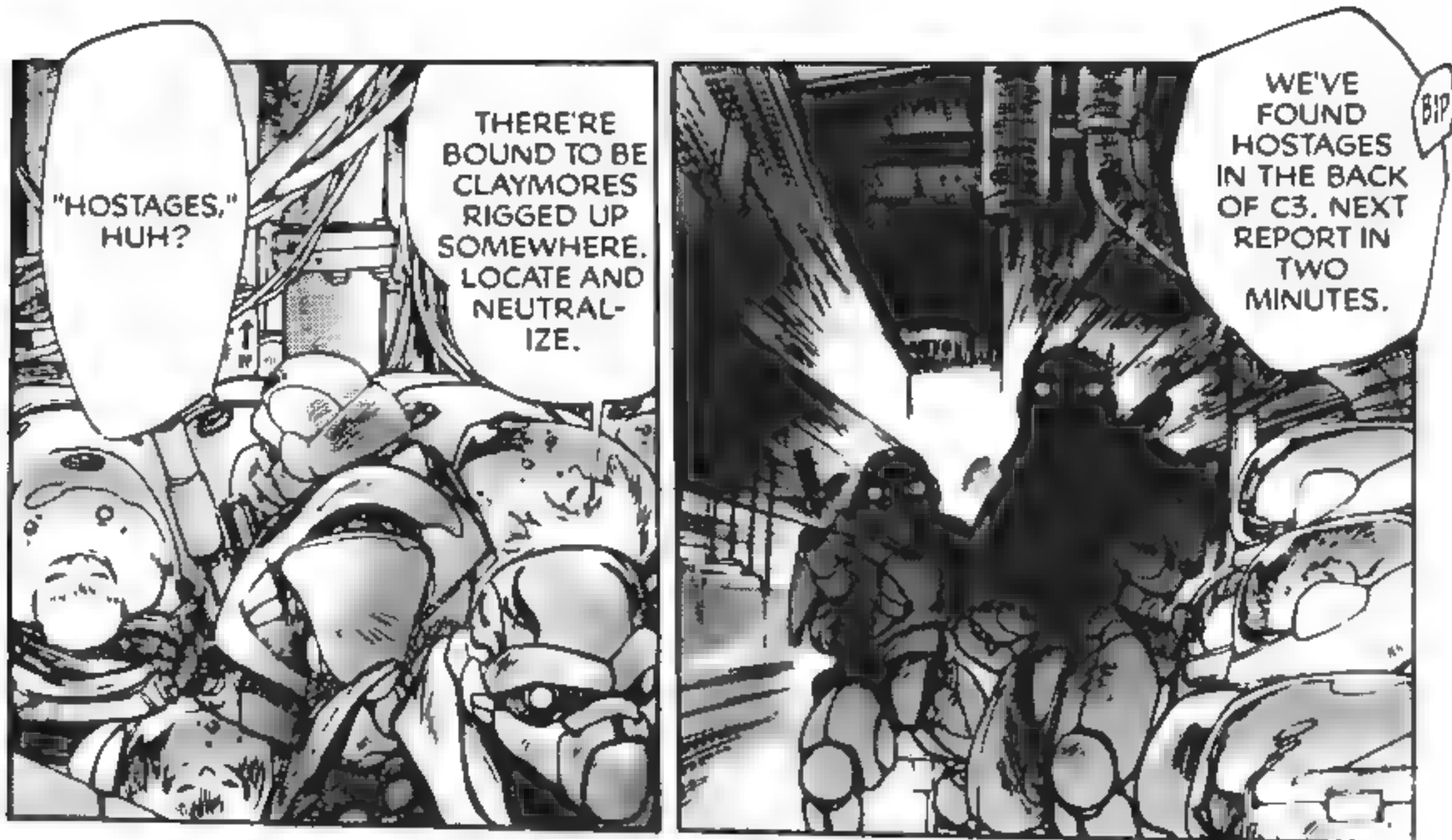


\*FX BAM





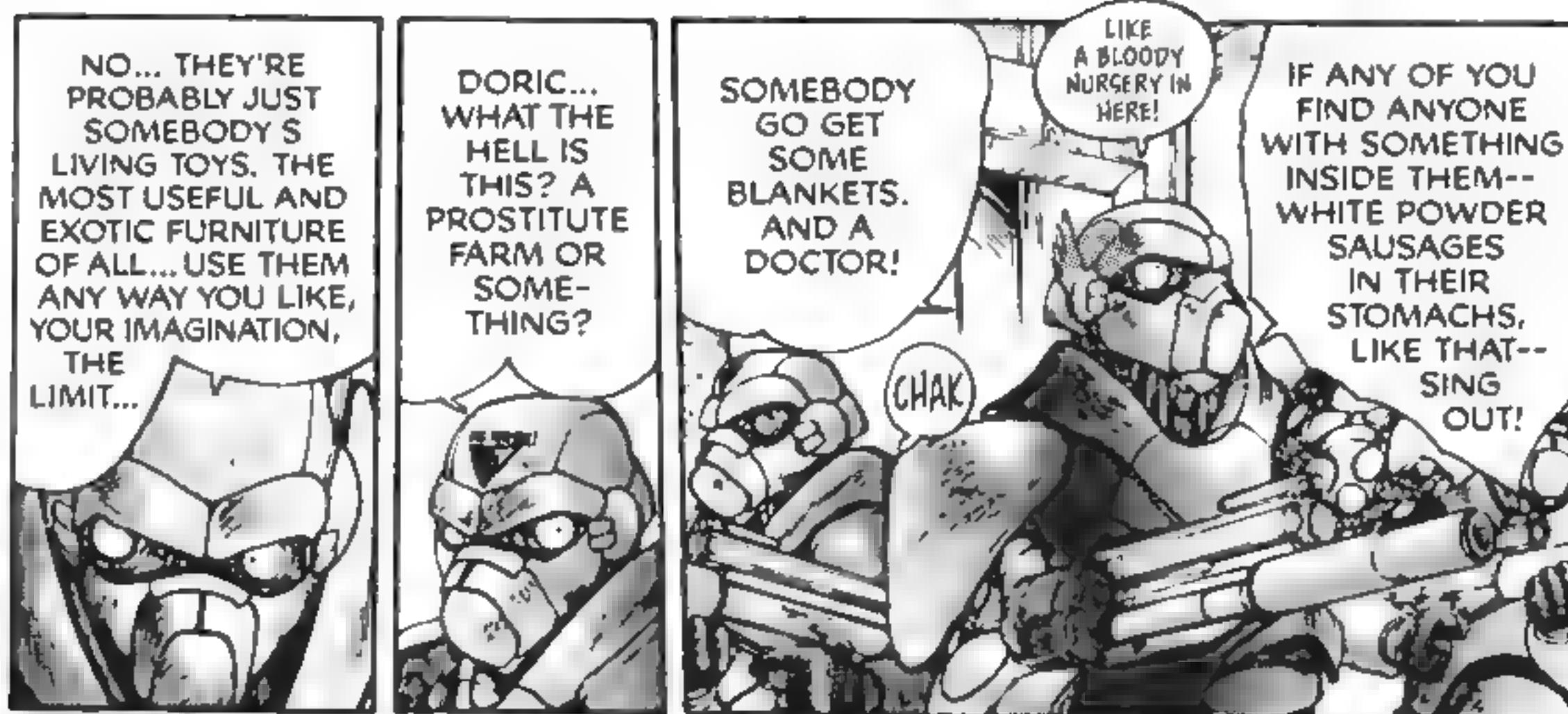




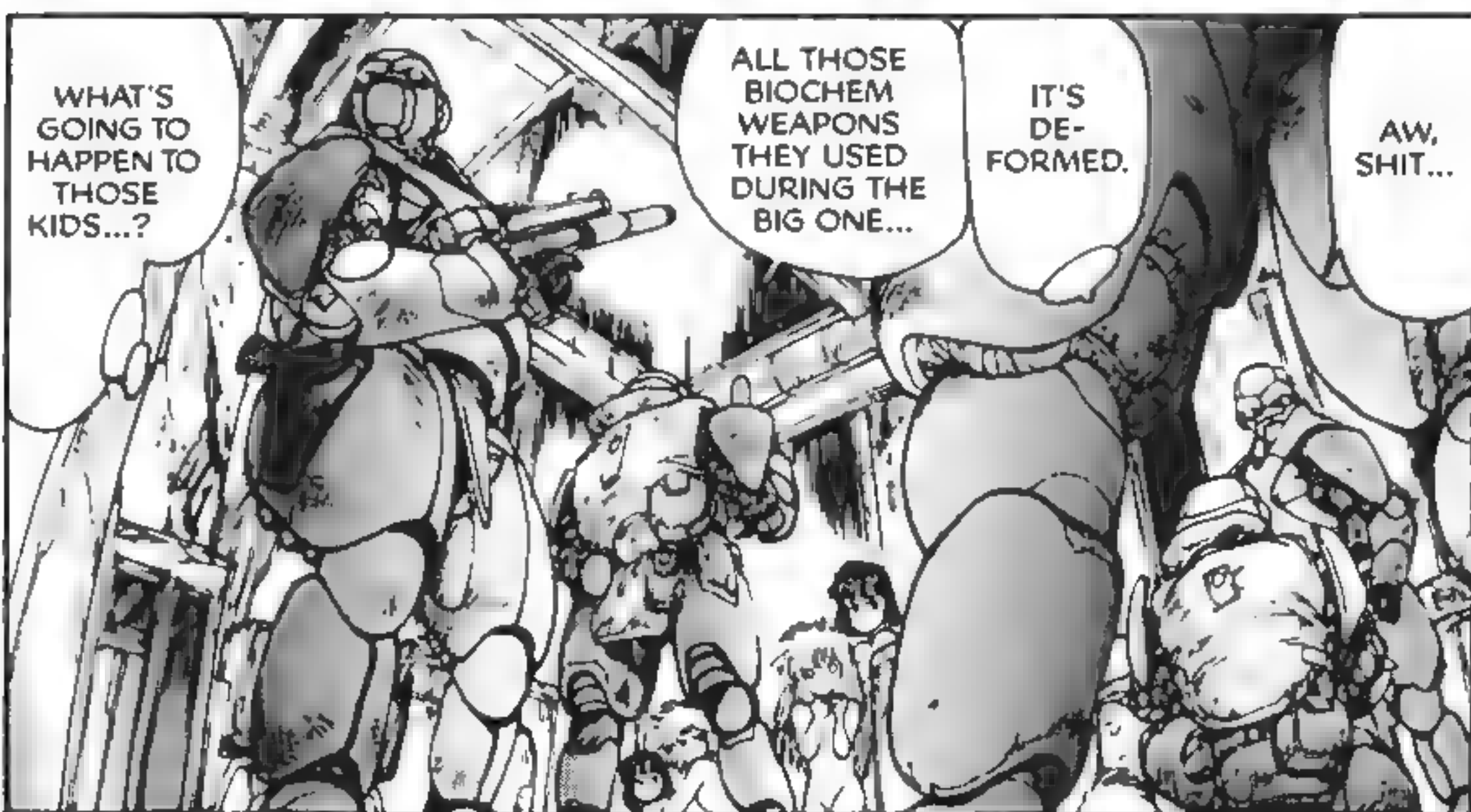
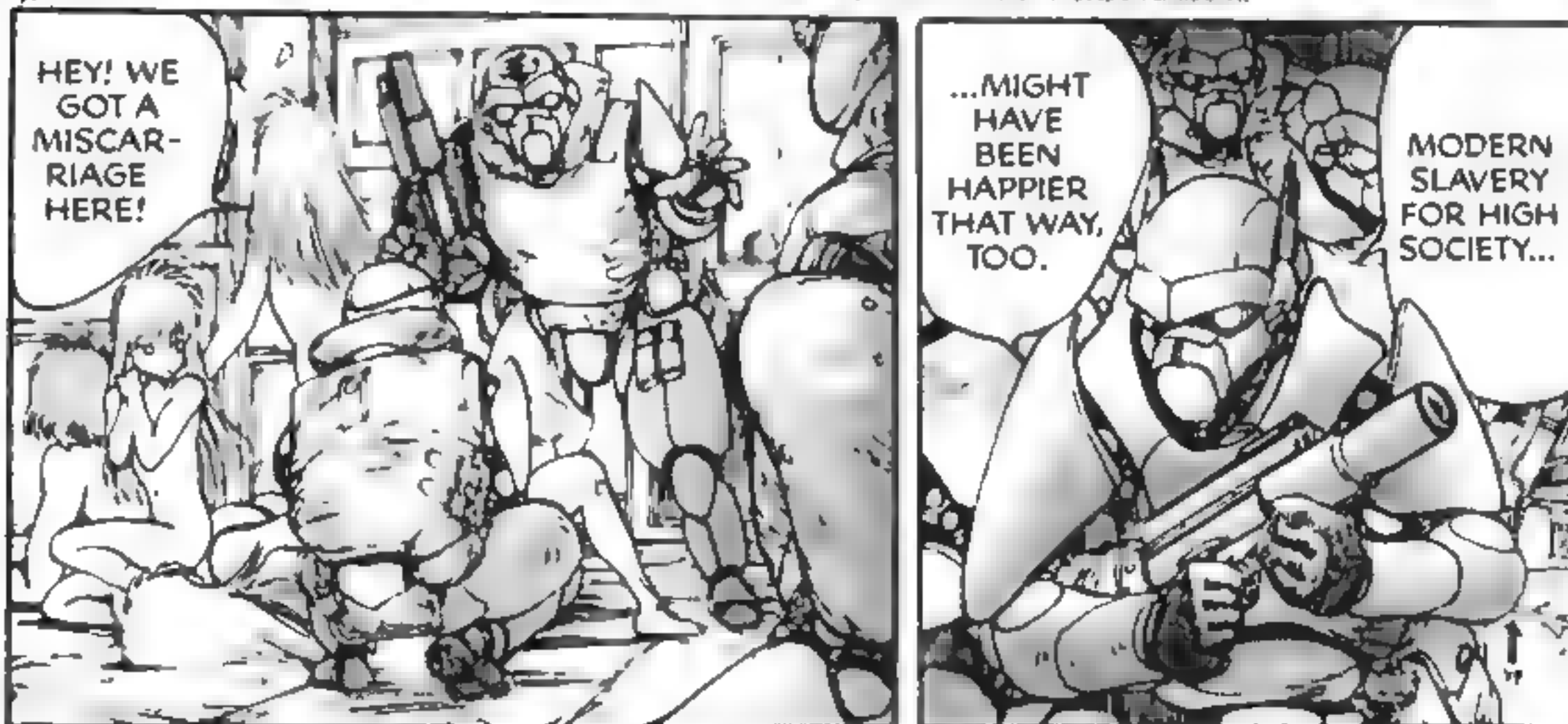
Nit: chicken meat



\*FX JWEHHH



★ Mutual bummer: It's subjects for controversial experiments. Men-shields more effective than composite armor. Men's for all people. Full Mure, etc.







DOG MATTHEW CARTED HIM AWAY.

HOW'S HELLMAN?

C4, C6, PULL OUT!

HEY!

SAME HERE AS IN OLYMPUS, SEEMS LIKE... PEOPLE ARE THE MOST VALUABLE COMMODITY...

C5, PULL OUT!

NOT LIKE ZURICH

I FEEL LIKE A GRAVE ROBBER...

--PICKED UP SEVENTY-TWO KIDS FROM FOUR ROOMS IN THE BASEMENT--



\*FX KRAK



IT'S GONNA BE HELL JUST TEACHING THEM TO TALK. THINK THERE'S ANY HOPE...?

THEY'RE ALL MISSING THEIR FRONT TEETH!



STUFF A RAG IN IT, FUZZY-WUZZY!

ISN'T THERE ANY WAY TO SHUT THIS GUY UP?

HOW DARE YOU IMPRISON ME! I HAVE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY! I DEMAND--



C'MON, MOVE IT, CREEP!

TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES... A BIT LONG.

GOOD.

SQUAD LEADER, THE BUILDING IS CLEAR. ALL SQUADS PULLED OUT.



MAN, TAKE AWAY THE MIRANDA AND THEY SURE DO SPOUT OFF.

YEAH, YEAH. LEMME MAKE A NOTE OF THAT.

THE HOST THAT SUPPORTS YOU PARASITES WILL DIE SOMEDAY, TOO! YOUR NARCISSISTIC FANTASY IS DOOMED!



"GLORY AND AUTHORITY ARE LOST IN DEATH," RIGHT?

THAT FROM RECOLLECTIONS OF HOPE?

YOU GOT IT.

DE GAULLE SAID IT BEFORE... "THERE'S AN END TO EVERYTHING."



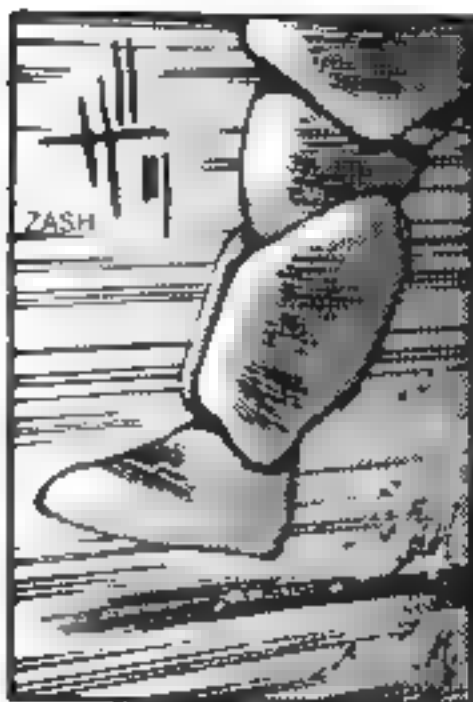


YOU'VE GOT  
NO RIGHT TO  
TOUCH THEM!  
HEY! ARE YOU  
LISTENING  
TO ME?!

WHAT DO  
YOU THINK  
YOU'RE  
DOING?!  
THOSE ARE  
DIPLOMATIC  
PERSONNEL!



HEY!



ZASH



GET YOUR  
HANDS  
OFF MY  
CHILDREN!

\*FX FDE

FX SKRANI

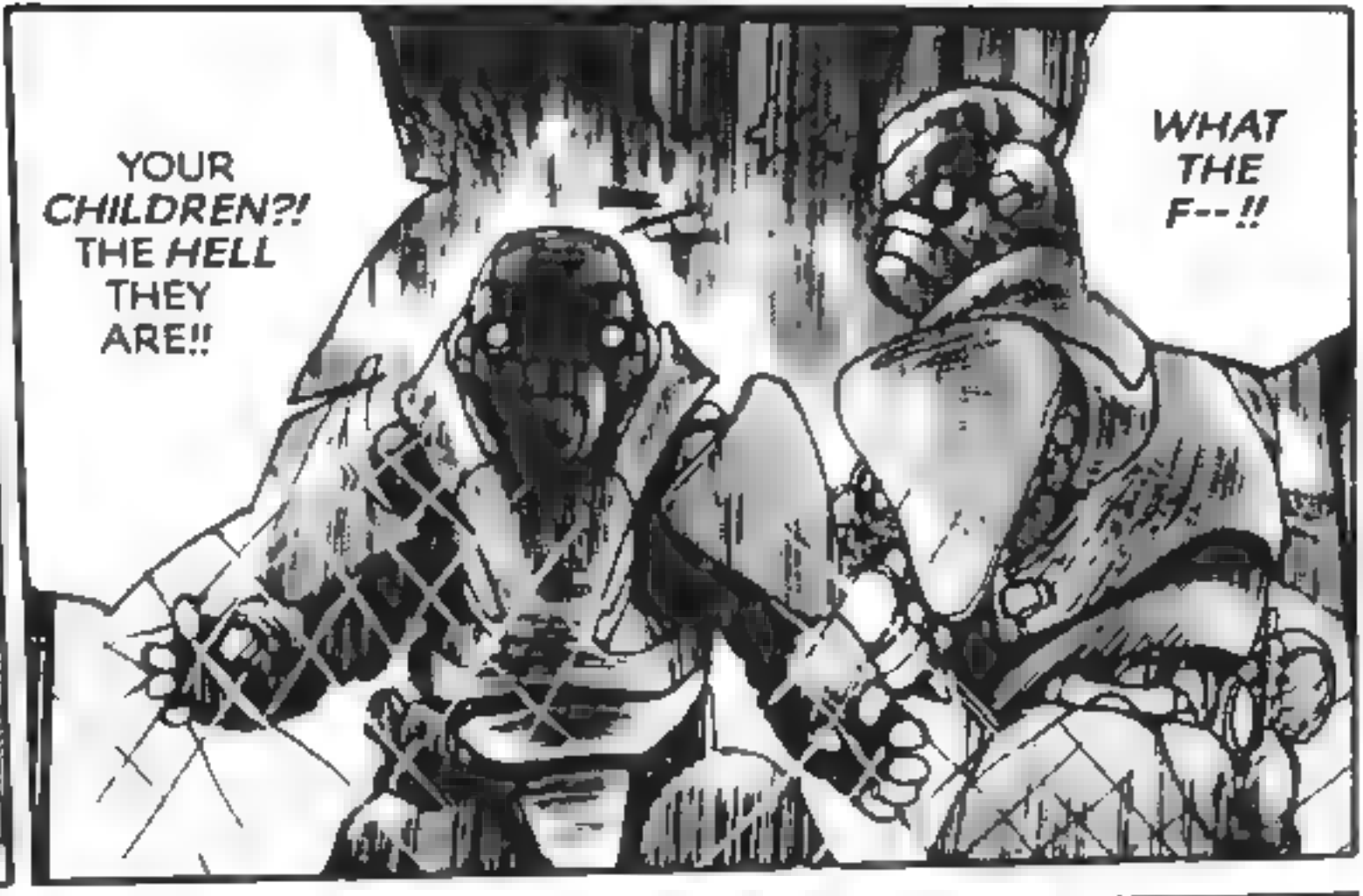
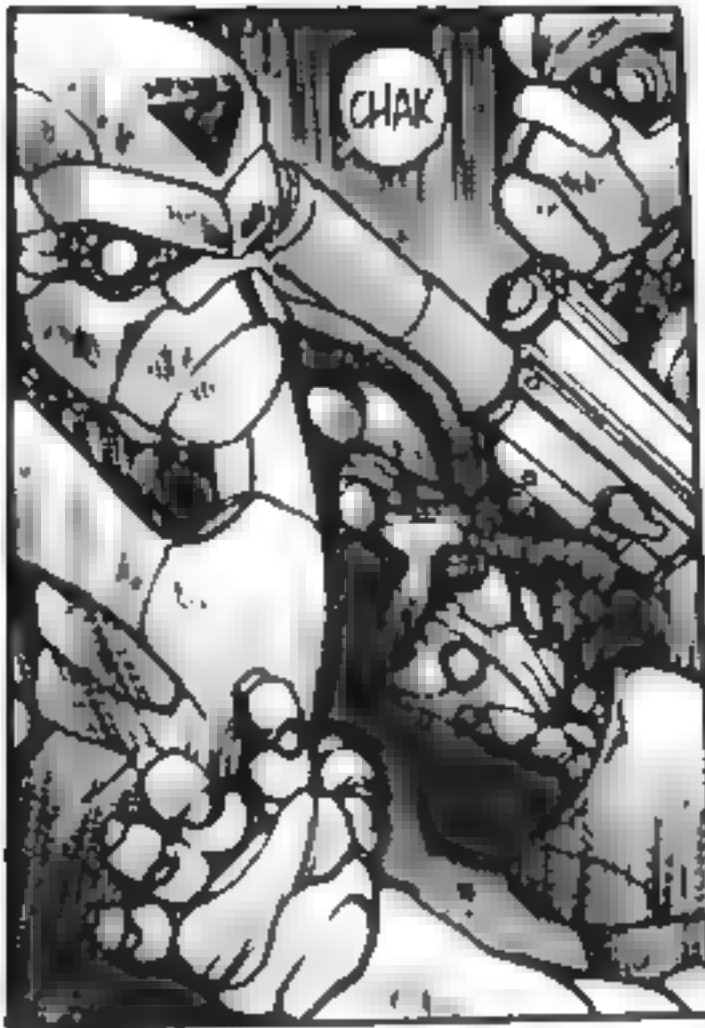


HAH?



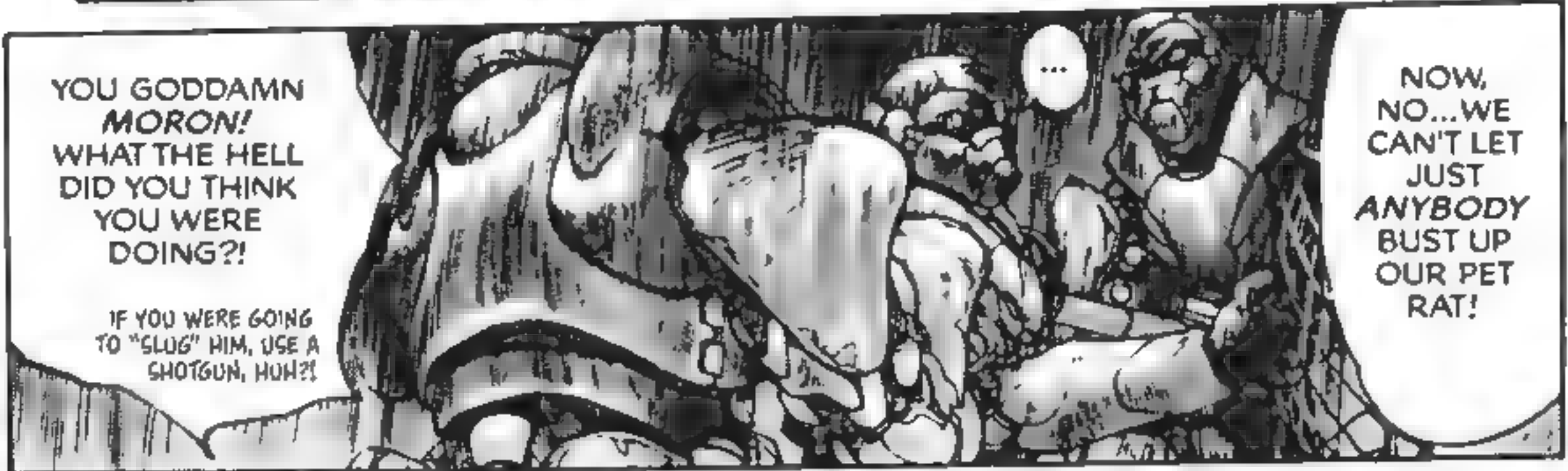
\*FX FWMP





YOUR  
CHILDREN?!  
THE HELL  
THEY  
ARE!!

WHAT  
THE  
F--!!



YOU GODDAMN  
MORON!  
WHAT THE HELL  
DID YOU THINK  
YOU WERE  
DOING?!

IF YOU WERE GOING  
TO "SLUG" HIM, USE A  
SHOTGUN, HUH?!

NOW,  
NO...WE  
CAN'T LET  
JUST  
ANYBODY  
BUST UP  
OUR PET  
RAT!



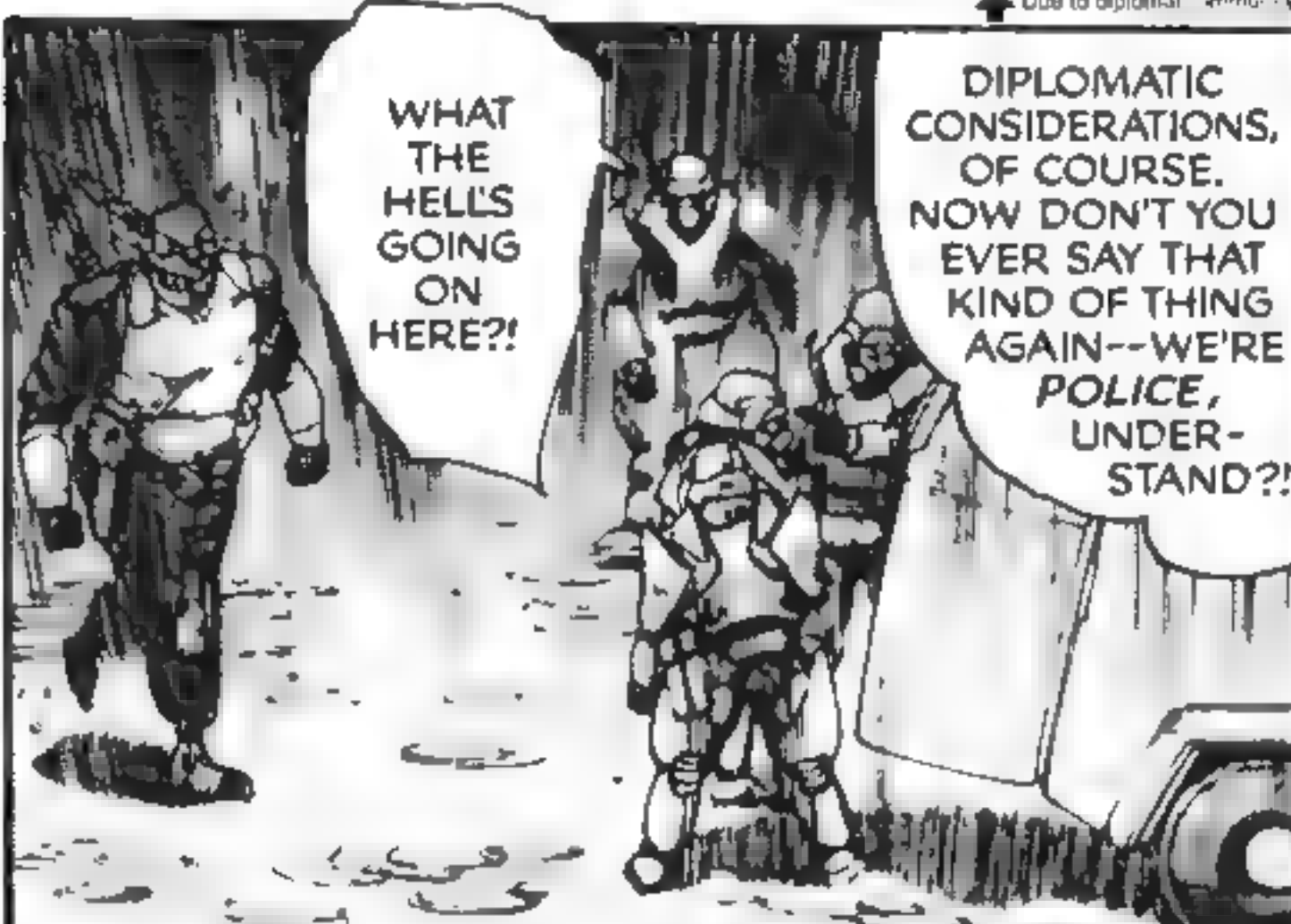
WHY  
DIDN'T YOU  
SHOOT HIM  
WHEN YOU  
HAD THE  
CHANCE?!

WE'LL JUST  
HAVE TO LET  
HIM GO  
ANYWAY!



DEUNAN  
DID  
WHAT?!  
NOT  
AGAIN...

COULD  
BE BAD  
NEWS...



WHAT  
THE  
HELL'S  
GOING  
ON  
HERE?!

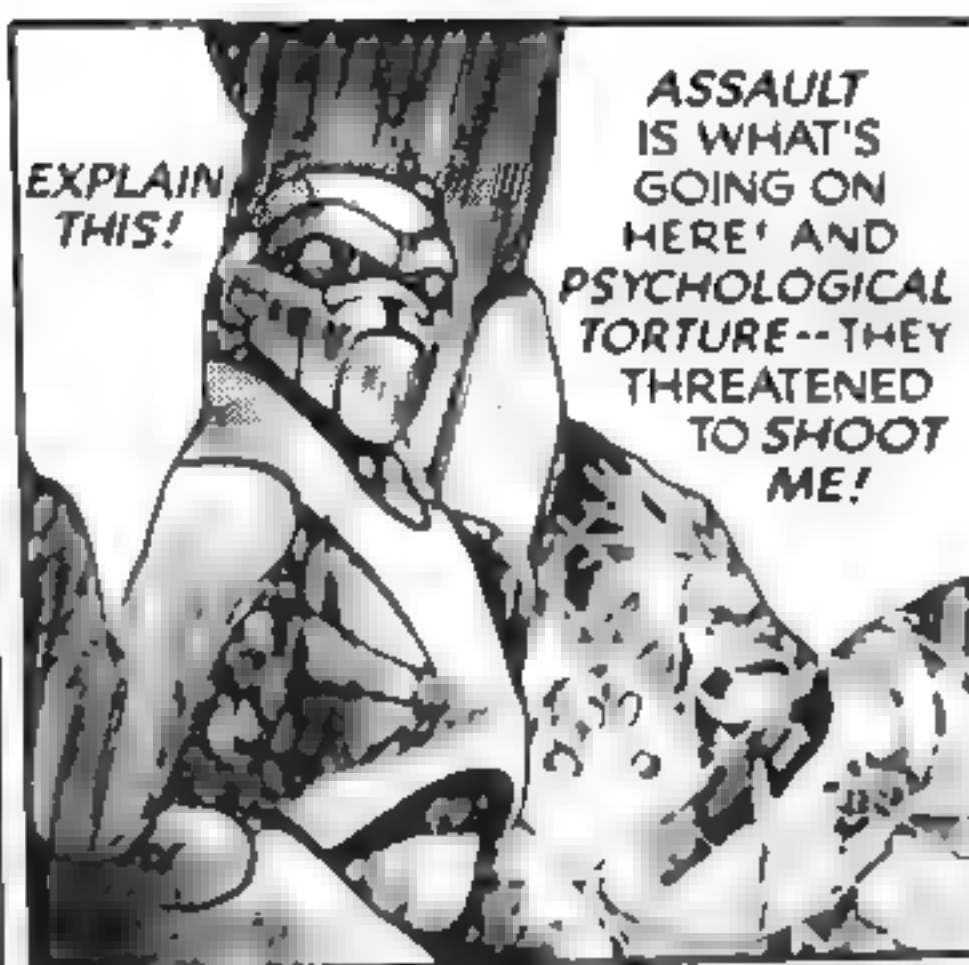
DIPLOMATIC  
CONSIDERATIONS,  
OF COURSE.  
NOW DON'T YOU  
EVER SAY THAT  
KIND OF THING  
AGAIN--WE'RE  
POLICE,  
UNDER-  
STAND?!



RIGHT!  
THAT'S  
WHAT  
HAP-  
PENED!  
HE--

I...HE...  
ER, HE  
TRIED TO  
STEAL MY  
GUN!  
THAT S IT--  
MY GUN!

WHAT  
ABOUT  
HER?



EXPLAIN  
THIS!

ASSAULT  
IS WHAT'S  
GOING ON  
HERE! AND  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
TORTURE--THEY  
THREATENED  
TO SHOOT  
ME!

\*FX KSSSHH



YES,  
SIR!

REPORT  
TO ME  
AFTER-  
WARD!



IT'S  
BECAUSE OF  
BASTARDS  
LIKE  
YOU--  
THAT S  
ENOUGH!



WELL?!  
ANSWER  
ME!

YOU  
GOT IT,  
SOL-  
DIER?!

BUT,  
SIR  
I...

EHEH...  
EH...



AND  
YOU--  
OPEN  
YOUR  
VISOR!



YES,  
SIR . I  
MEAN NO,  
SIR

IF IT HAPPENS  
AGAIN, I'LL  
SEE THAT YOU  
SPEND THE REST  
OF YOUR CAREER  
GUARDING  
THE LIBYAN  
EMBASSY!

NEARLY LOST  
YOUR GUN,  
HMM? CAN'T  
YOU TAKE  
CARE OF  
YOUR OWN  
PROPERTY?!





'FX HRONNN



HEY, HEY,  
IT'S ALL  
RIGHT--LOOK,  
THERE'S THIS  
BLONDE  
CHICK...

FOR  
CHRIST'S  
SAKE! CAN'T  
YOU THINK  
ABOUT  
ANYTHING  
ELSE?!

THE  
PHILIPPINES  
AND HONG  
KONG ARE  
UP TO  
POSEIDON,  
NOT US

NOW  
THAT WE'VE  
SHUT DOWN  
FRANCE, THE  
MEXICAN  
ROUTE WILL  
SOAR IN  
VALUE.

MAN,  
THAT  
WAS A  
PIECE OF  
CAKE!

URS



YOU CAN'T GIVE  
SOMEONE A  
CYBORG LEG JUST  
LIKE *THAT*--IT'D  
TEAR OUT WHEN  
THEY TRY TO RUN.  
YOU SHOULD'VE  
CALLED A  
*REGULAR*  
DOCTOR!

DAMNED  
YOU, LIES



DON'T  
KNOW  
WHY  
YOU  
WOKE  
ME UP  
FOR A  
SCRATCH  
LIKE  
THAT!

DOC!  
HOW'S  
HELL-  
MAN?

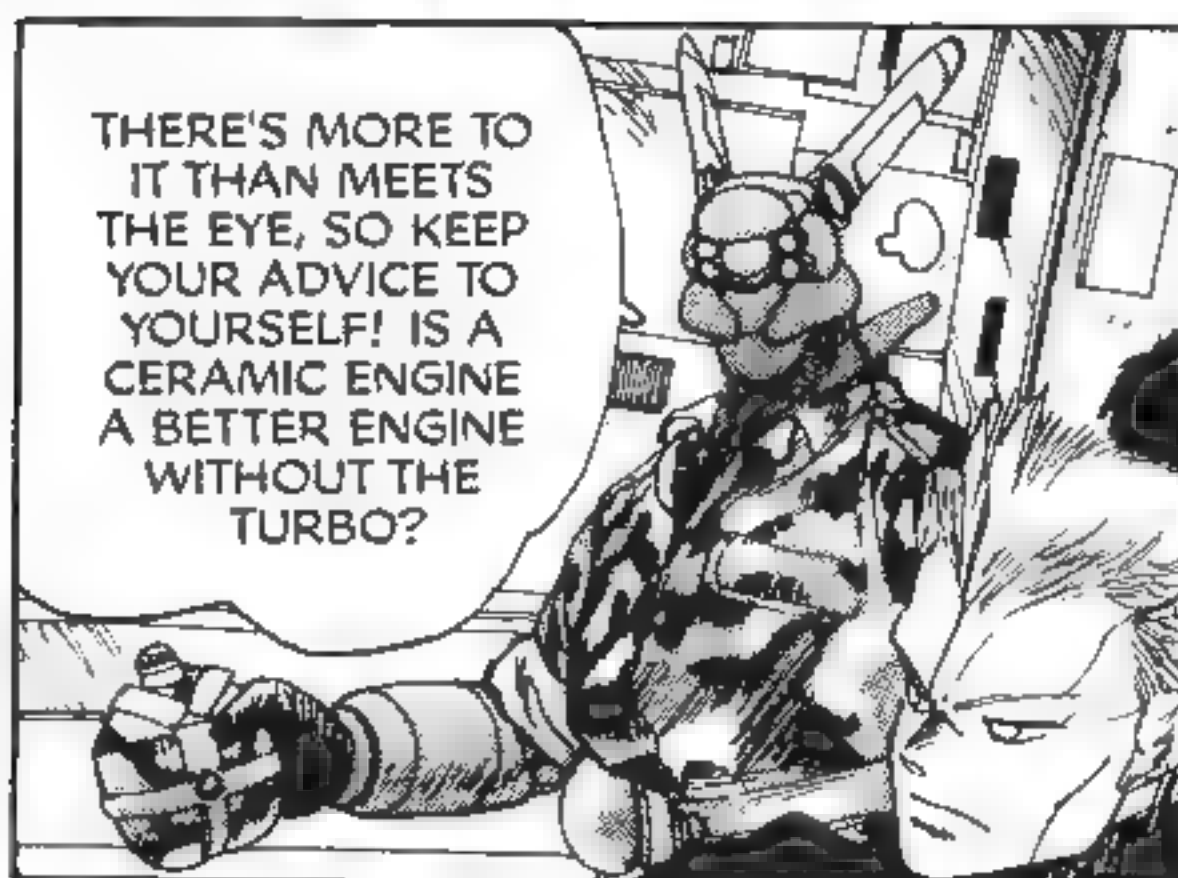
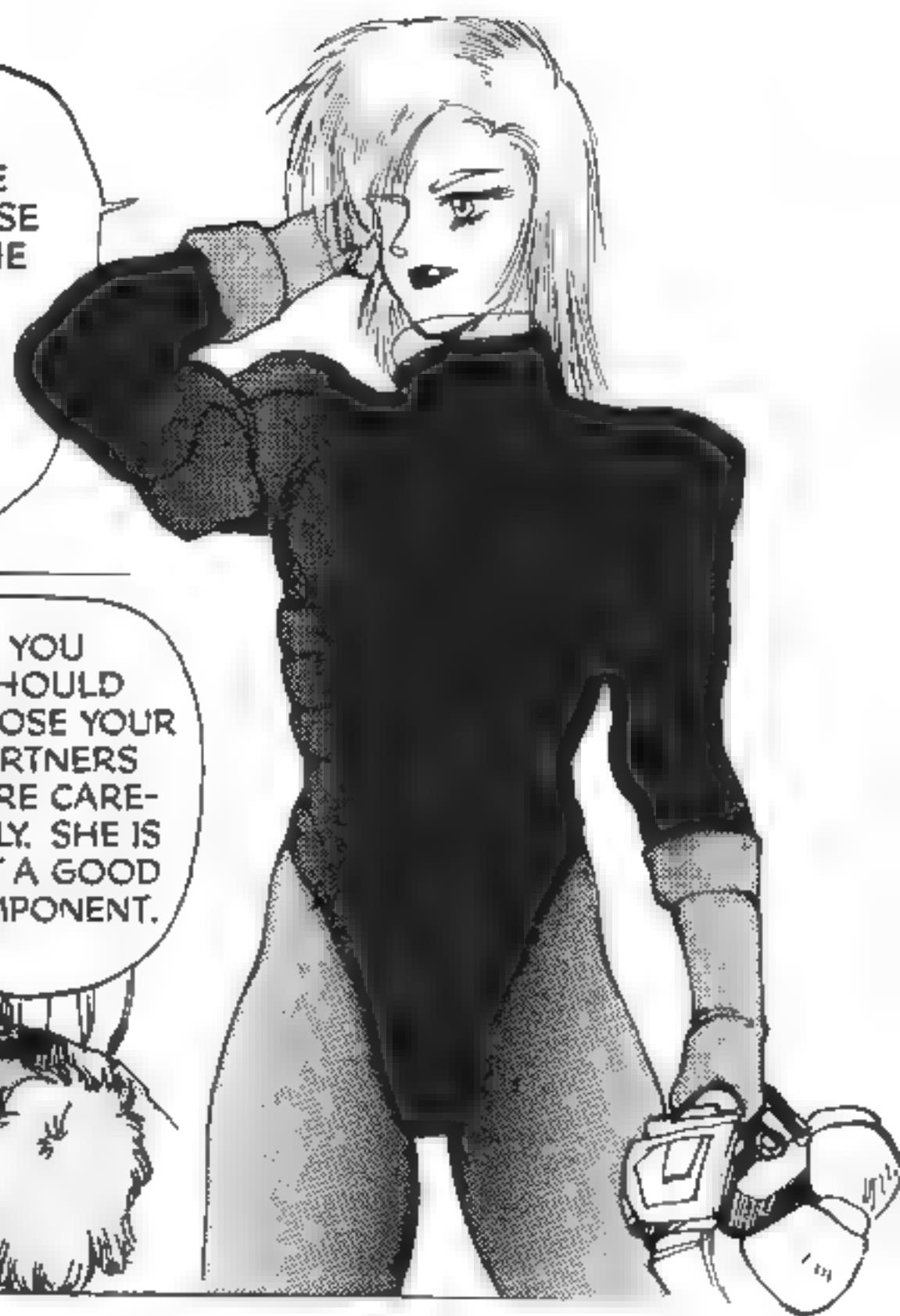
...

SO,  
DORIC,  
BABY, PICK  
YOU UP AT  
EIGHT?

SURE



YOU WERE LUCKY THOSE GUYS AT THE ENTRANCE TO C3 WEREN'T PROS.



YOU SHOULD CHOOSE YOUR PARTNERS MORE CAREFULLY. SHE IS NOT A GOOD COMPONENT.



SOMEDAY SHE WILL GET IN YOUR WAY. DEATH WILL COME CALLING FOR YOU, THROUGH HER.

BUT WE NEED "COMPONENTS" LIKE HER. THE ODD PIECE OUT IN THE JIGSAW PUZZLE, THE VARIABLE PART. A UNIT STRUCTURED LIKE A SIMPLE METALLIC CRYSTAL HAS NO FLEXIBILITY TO RESPOND TO THE UNEXPECTED.

SURE, IT'S TOUGH WORK FOR SOMEONE HER AGE...

CAN'T HAVE A REACTION WITHOUT A CATALYST.





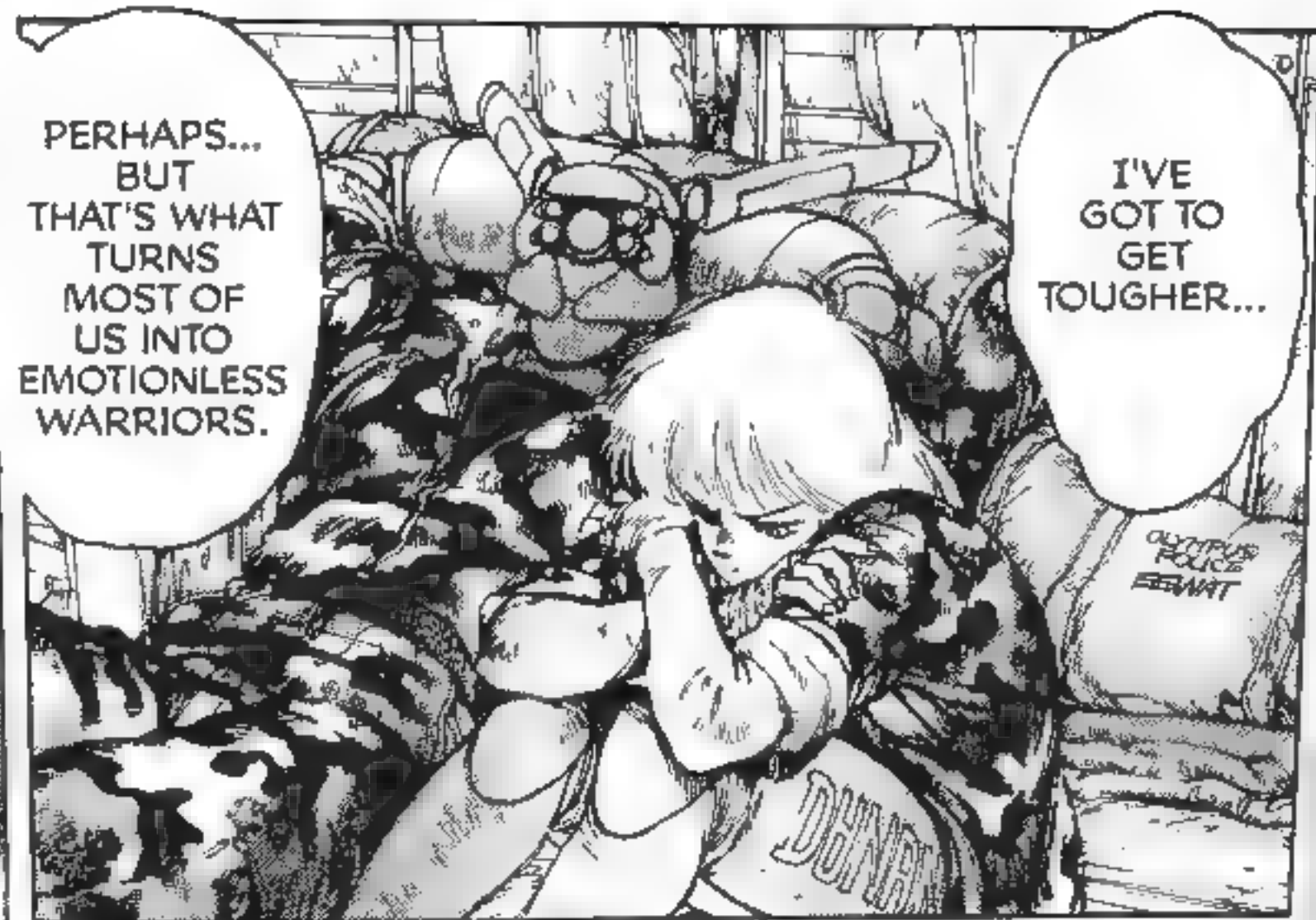


The concept of unification no longer stands to reason. Diversity of species is to Gara what diversity of cellular tissue is to an organism, etc.





ANYWAY,  
DON'T BROOD  
ABOUT THINGS  
THAT CAN'T BE  
HELPED. DO  
THE BEST YOU  
CAN--THAT'S  
ALL ANYONE  
COULD  
ASK.



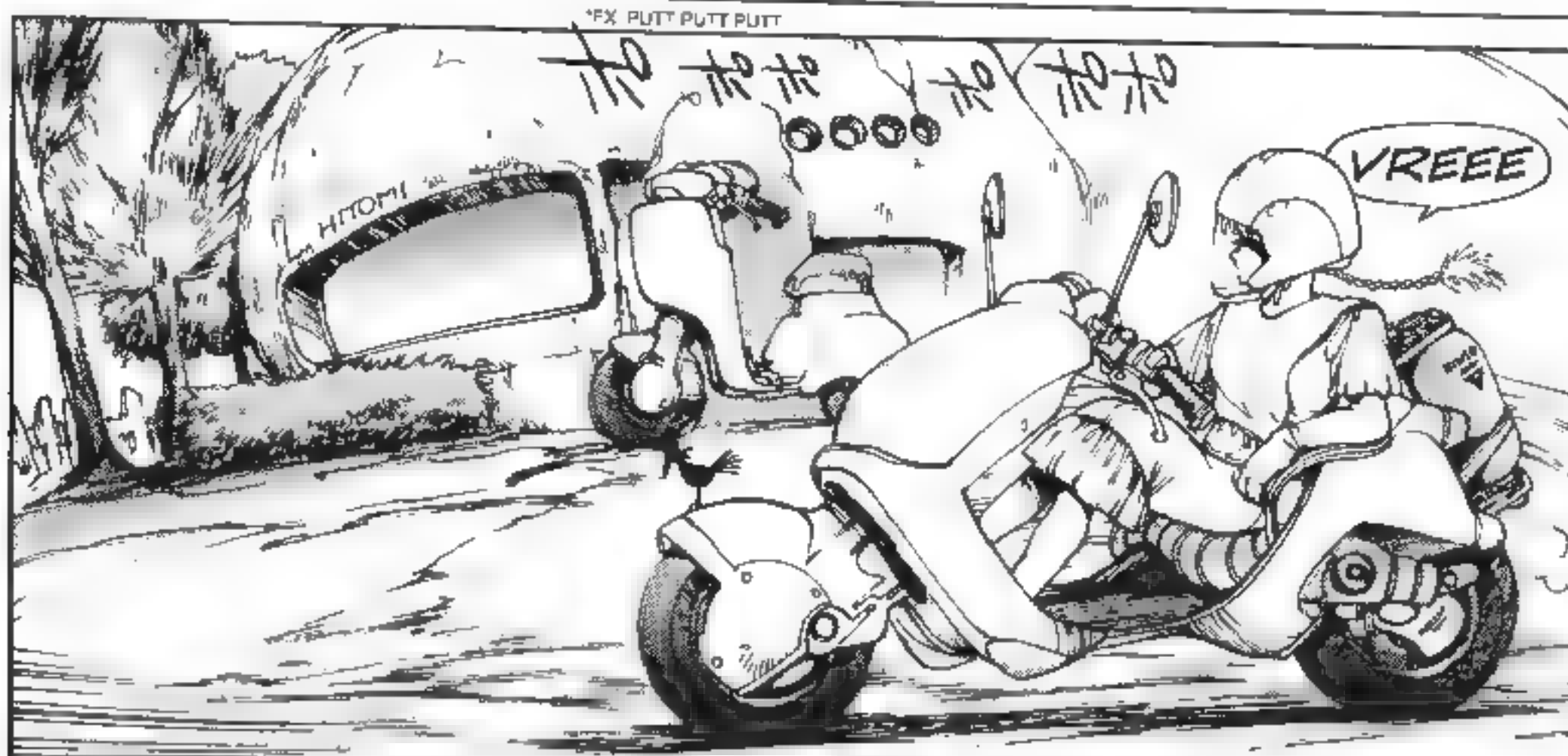
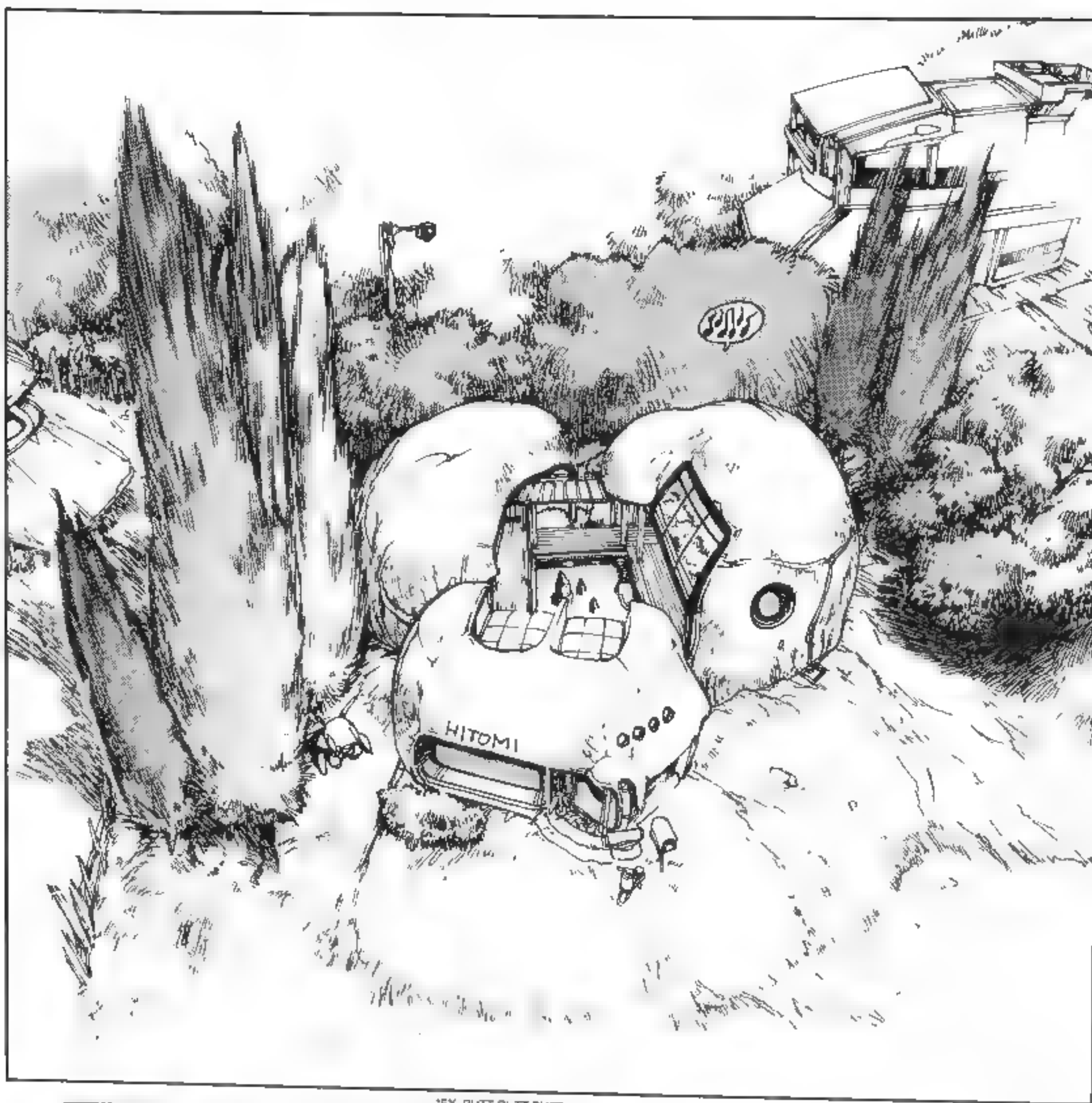
PERHAPS...  
BUT  
THAT'S WHAT  
TURNS  
MOST OF  
US INTO  
EMOTIONLESS  
WARRIORS.

I'VE  
GOT TO  
GET  
TOUGHER...



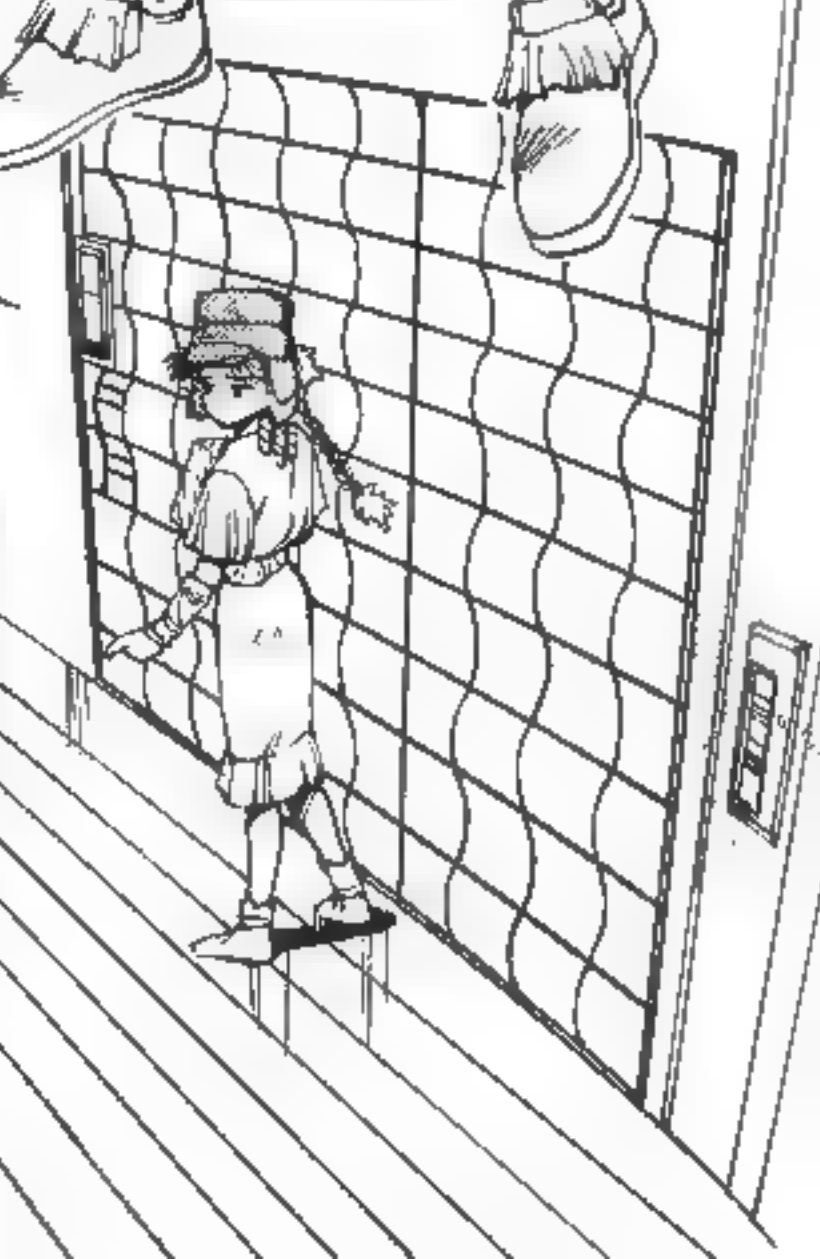
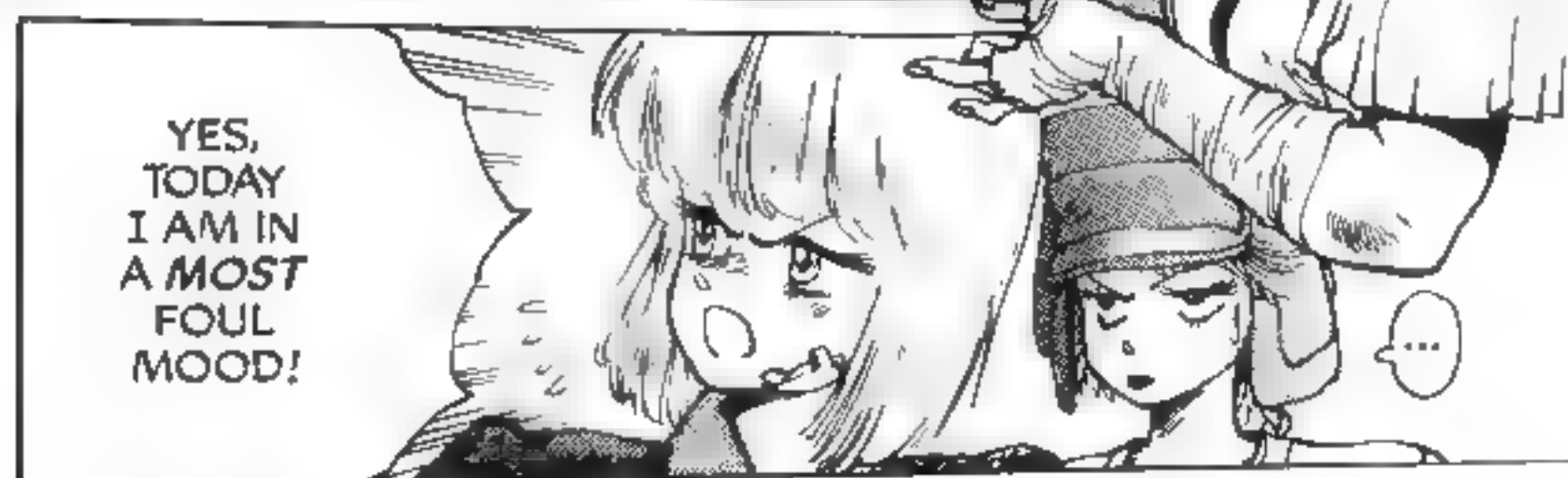
DEAD OR ALIVE





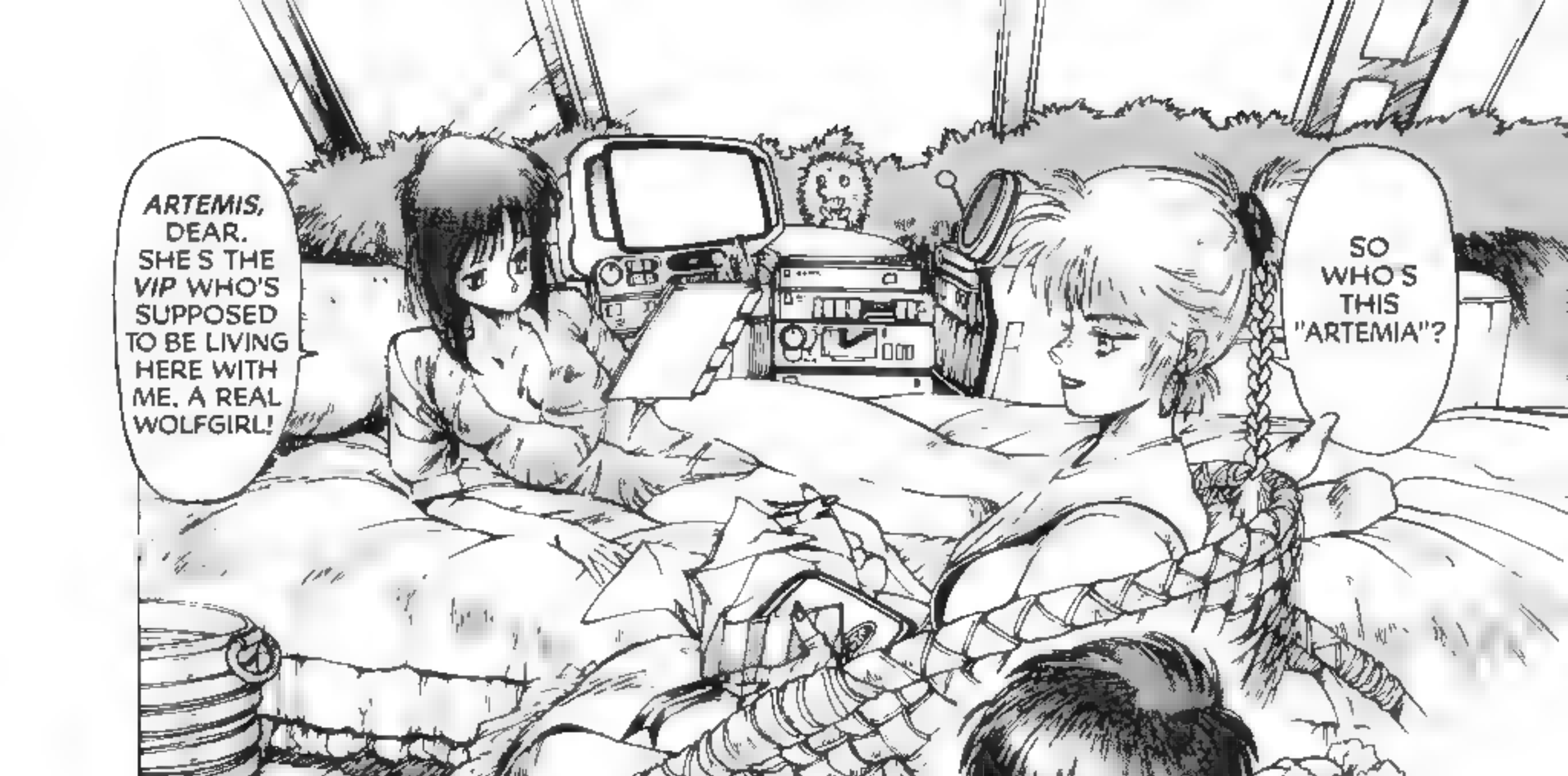


\*FX GARAK









ARTEMIS,  
DEAR.  
SHE'S THE  
VIP WHO'S  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE LIVING  
HERE WITH  
ME. A REAL  
WOLFGIRL!

SO  
WHO'S  
THIS  
"ARTEMIA"?

Incidentally, artemis are brine shrimp. Also known as "sea monkeys"

!

ANYWAY, SHE'S GONE  
MISSING. BUT THEY  
SAY SHE'S GOT CAT  
EYES AND EARS LIKE  
A MULE DEER, SO  
HOW LONG CAN SHE  
HIDE OUT LOOKING  
LIKE *THAT*,  
HMM?

HEH  
HEH

QUITE A  
CREATURE... HER  
HAIR CHANGES  
COLOR TO SHIELD  
HER AGAINST  
ULTRAVIOLET. IT  
EVEN CHANGES  
LENGTH ACCORD-  
ING TO CLIMATE  
TO MAINTAIN  
HER BODY  
TEMPERATURE.

\*Book: Introduction  
to Molecular Design

IN-HOUSE  
PRODUC-  
TION, MM?  
NOT CONTRI-  
BUTING  
MUCH TO  
EVOLUTION,  
IS SHE?

NEED A  
MIX OF  
GENES FOR  
IMPROVE-  
MENT

WOW! LOOK AT  
THIS-- WITHOUT  
LIFE-EXTENSION  
PROCESSING, SHE  
AGES FIVE TIMES  
FASTER THAN  
NORMAL! AND  
GET THIS-- SHE  
CAN CLONE  
HERSELF!





EVOLUTION  
WILL LEAVE  
HER  
BEHIND.

ARTEMIS MAY  
BE CHANGING  
ALL THE TIME,  
BUT SHE'S A  
DEAD END. A  
ONE-WOMAN  
SHOW.

EVEN PLANTS AVOID  
SELF-POLLINATION...

PARTHENOGENESIS  
IS OVERWHELMINGLY  
ADVANTAGEOUS  
FOR SHEER  
REPLICATION. BUT  
EVEN IF IT'S GOOD  
FOR INDIVIDUAL  
ORGANISMS,  
THE SPECIES AS A  
WHOLE CAN'T  
KEEP UP WITH  
AN EVOLVING  
ENVIRONMENT.



IN ORDER TO  
PRESERVE LEEWAY FOR  
CHANGE, YOU ALWAYS  
HAVE TO RENEW...

MEGAERA?  
WOULD YOU PLEASE  
STOP BEING SO  
GLOOMY?!

THERE HAVE  
ALREADY BEEN  
NINE BIOROID  
SUICIDES JUST  
THIS WEEK. THE  
AUTHORITIES  
ARE PREPARING  
TO OPEN AN  
INVESTIGATION,  
AND--



AND  
WHAT  
IS, IS  
EVERY-  
THING!

EVERY-  
THING  
IS AS IT  
IS.



AND  
HERE I  
CALLED  
YOU BE-  
CAUSE  
I WAS  
SO BUSY  
...!

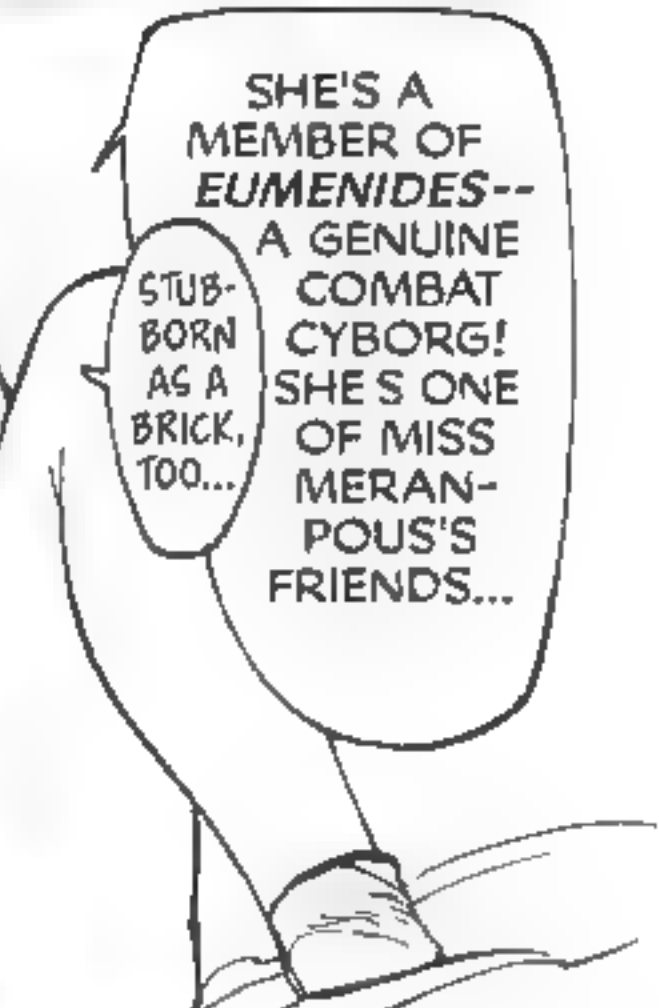
OH, YEAH! I  
BROUGHT THE  
SAMPLES FOR  
OUR "CHOCO-  
LATE PARTY"...  
HAVE A BITE!

WELL, LIKE I  
SAID, YOU ALL  
LOOK ALIKE  
TO ME!

SHE'S A  
MEMBER OF  
EUMENIDES--  
A GENUINE  
COMBAT  
CYBORG! SHE'S ONE  
OF MISS  
MERAN-  
POUS'S  
FRIENDS...

STUB-  
BORN  
AS A  
BRICK,  
TOO...

GIMME,  
GIMME!



OLYMPUS: HAEROPOLIS PARK



FROWR?

HAH

YAAWN

KRIK  
KRIK  
POP

FX STRETCH  
FX POP  
FX POP  
FX KRIK

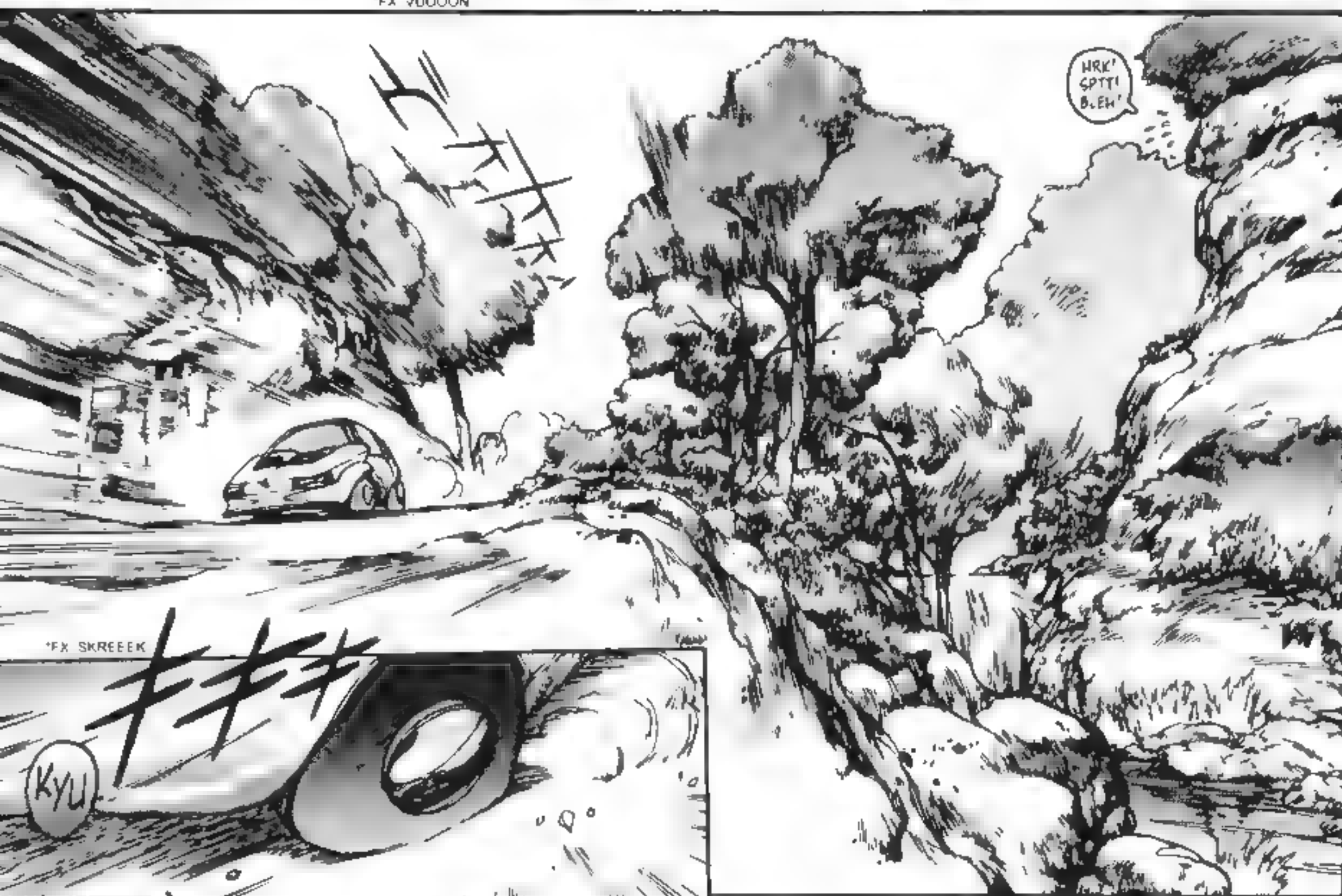


HMM



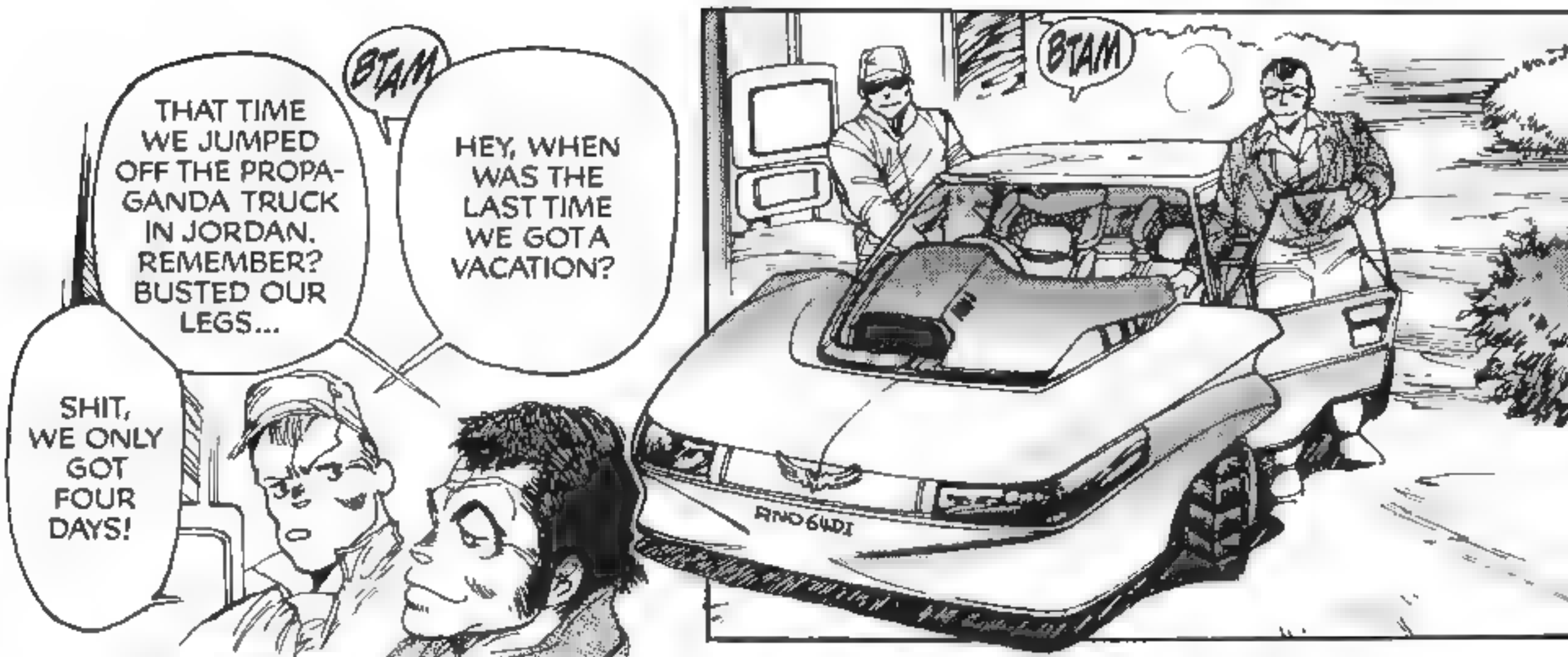


\*FX VUDUON



\*FX SKREEEK

KYU





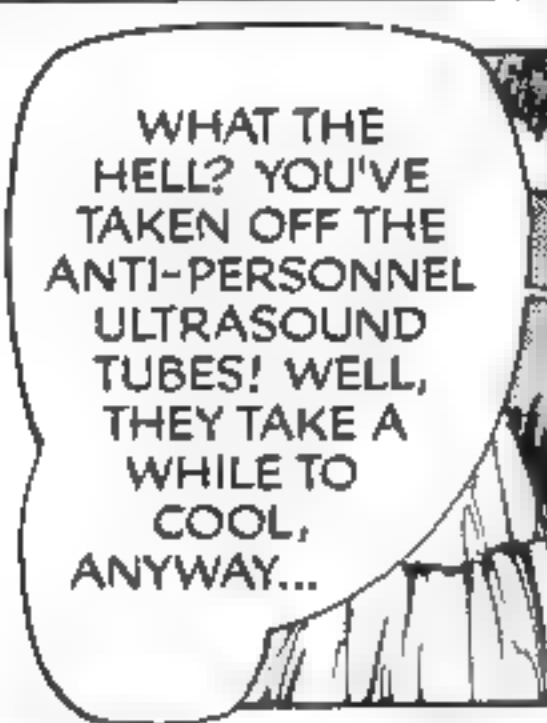


TWO  
"MAY  
QUEENS"  
IN THE  
BACK.  
SIGN FOR  
THEM,  
PLEASE.



da

GOT  
OUR  
LANDMATES  
FOR US?



WHAT THE  
HELL? YOU'VE  
TAKEN OFF THE  
ANTI-PERSONNEL  
ULTRASOUND  
TUBES! WELL,  
THEY TAKE A  
WHILE TO  
COOL,  
ANYWAY...



MY NIGHTS  
AREN'T FREE--  
I HAVE  
CHILDREN.

STOP

BEEP

OLYMPUS  
MECHANICS

C'MON  
DARLIN'..  
WHY  
NOT?

\*FX VNNNN



...

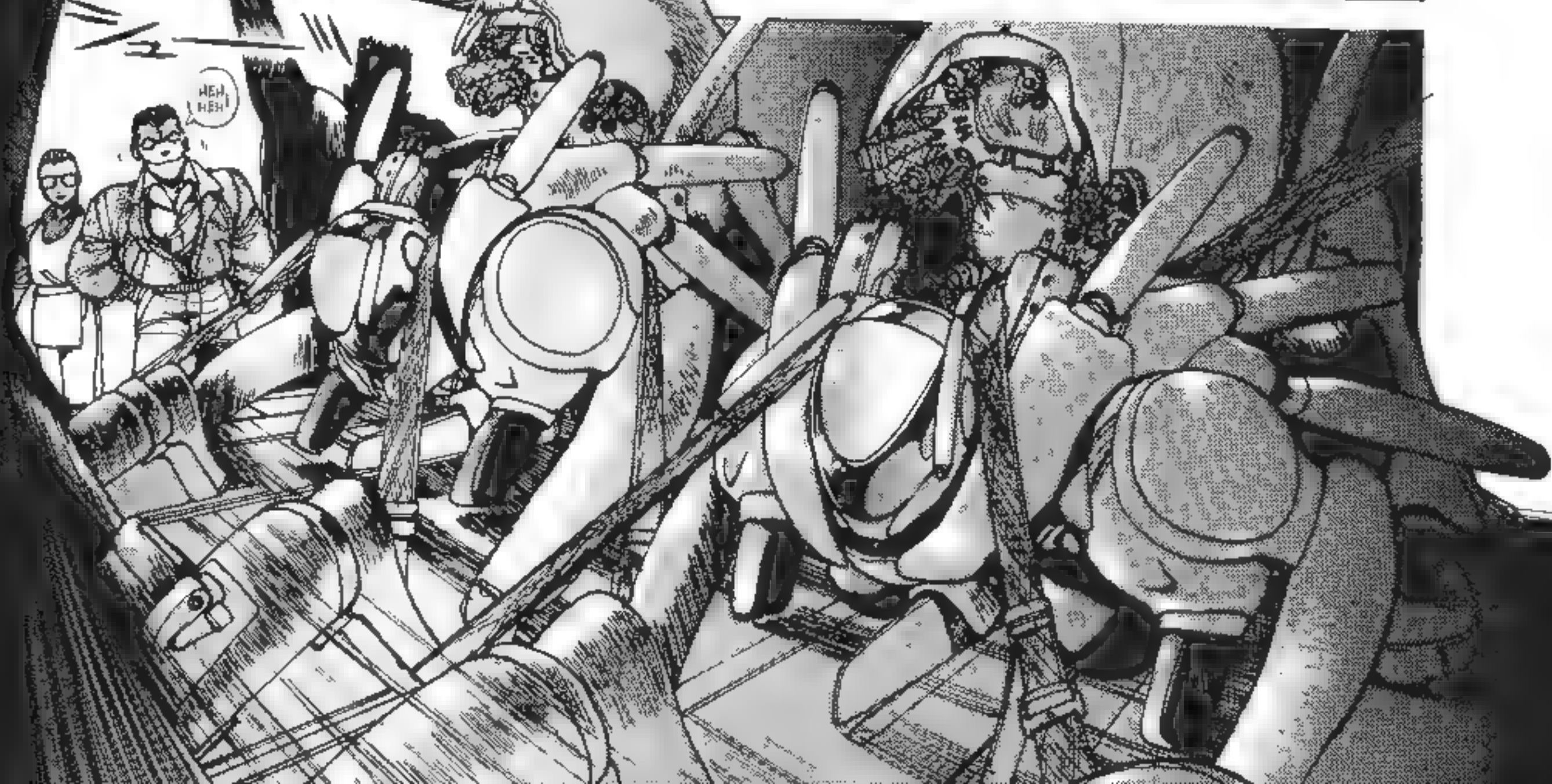
!!  
!!  
!!



STRICTLY  
"CODE OF  
HAMMU-  
RABI,"  
HMM?

HEY, WE'LL  
LET YOU  
GUYS ARREST  
HER AND  
BRING HER  
IN--LEAVE  
IT TO THE  
EXPERTS,  
RIGHT?

\*FX KSSHHHH



HEH  
HEH





DON'T ALL THESE THINGS STICKING OUT GET IN YOUR WAY?

CHRIST, THIS ARMOR DOESN'T DO A DAMN THING FOR YOUR HEAD OR YOUR BALLS--WHAT IDIOT DESIGNED THIS?!

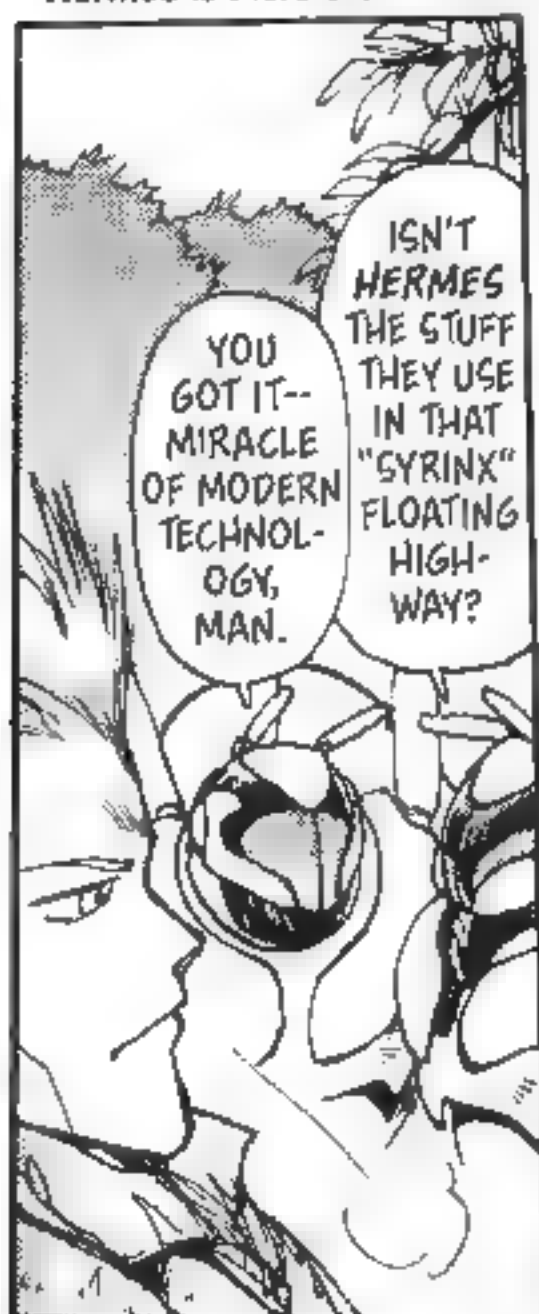
BLOODY EMBARRASSMENT TO WEAR AT MY AGE

...THE NUCLEONS EITHER SCATTER DUE TO CHARGE SUPPRESSION, OR THEY IMplode DUE TO A TRANSIENT PEAK IN THE STRONG NUCLEAR FORCE.

IF THEY FAIL, THE HOGAN EFFECT DISTRESSES AND THE FIELDS COLLAPSE. WHEN *THAT* HAPPENS...

THOSE HOLD THE FIELD CONTAINMENT COILS--THEY WRAP THE *HERMES* INSIDE A MAGNETIC "BUBBLE," SHIFT IT IN AND OUT OF PHASE.

Hermes is therefore not a new material, but a new state of matter



YOU GOT IT--MIRACLE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY, MAN.

ISN'T *HERMES* THE STUFF THEY USE IN THAT "SYRINX" FLOATING HIGHWAY?

ABOUT ONE-SIXTH OF NORMAL. IF THERE WEREN'T AN ALL-WEATHER SPEC WE COULD HAVE BROUGHT IT IN AT NEGATIVE TEN POUNDS.

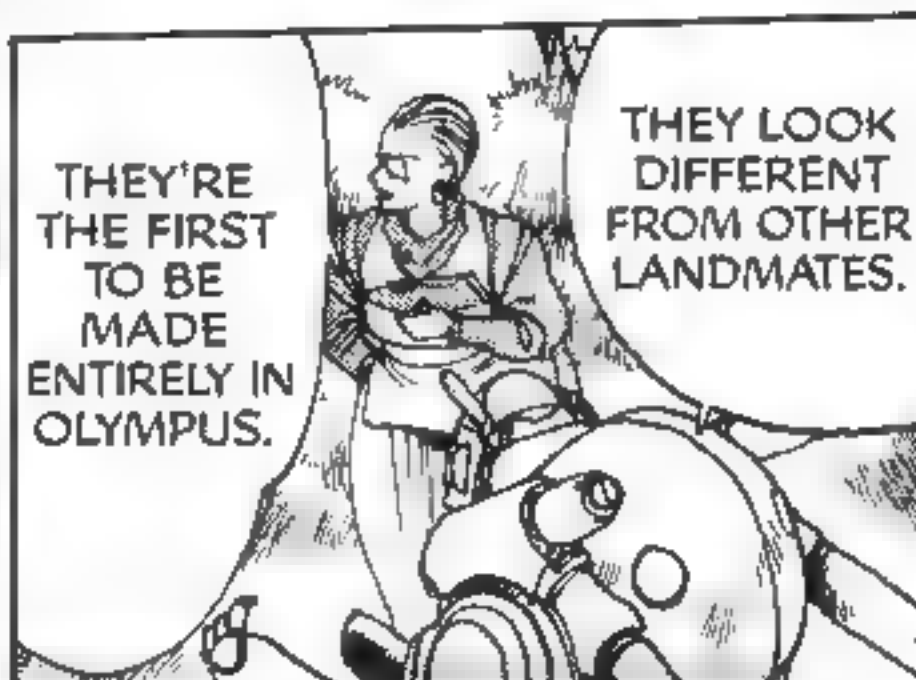
SO WE HAVE THE *HERMES* ANTIGRAVITY EFFECT TO THANK FOR THIS HUNDRED-POUND OPERATIONAL WEIGHT?

COMPLETELY SILENT, TOO. NOT BAD, HMM?



NOT THAT GUY WHO HAD TO GO TO HELL AND RESCUE SOMEONE? THAT'S JUST GODDAMN GREAT!

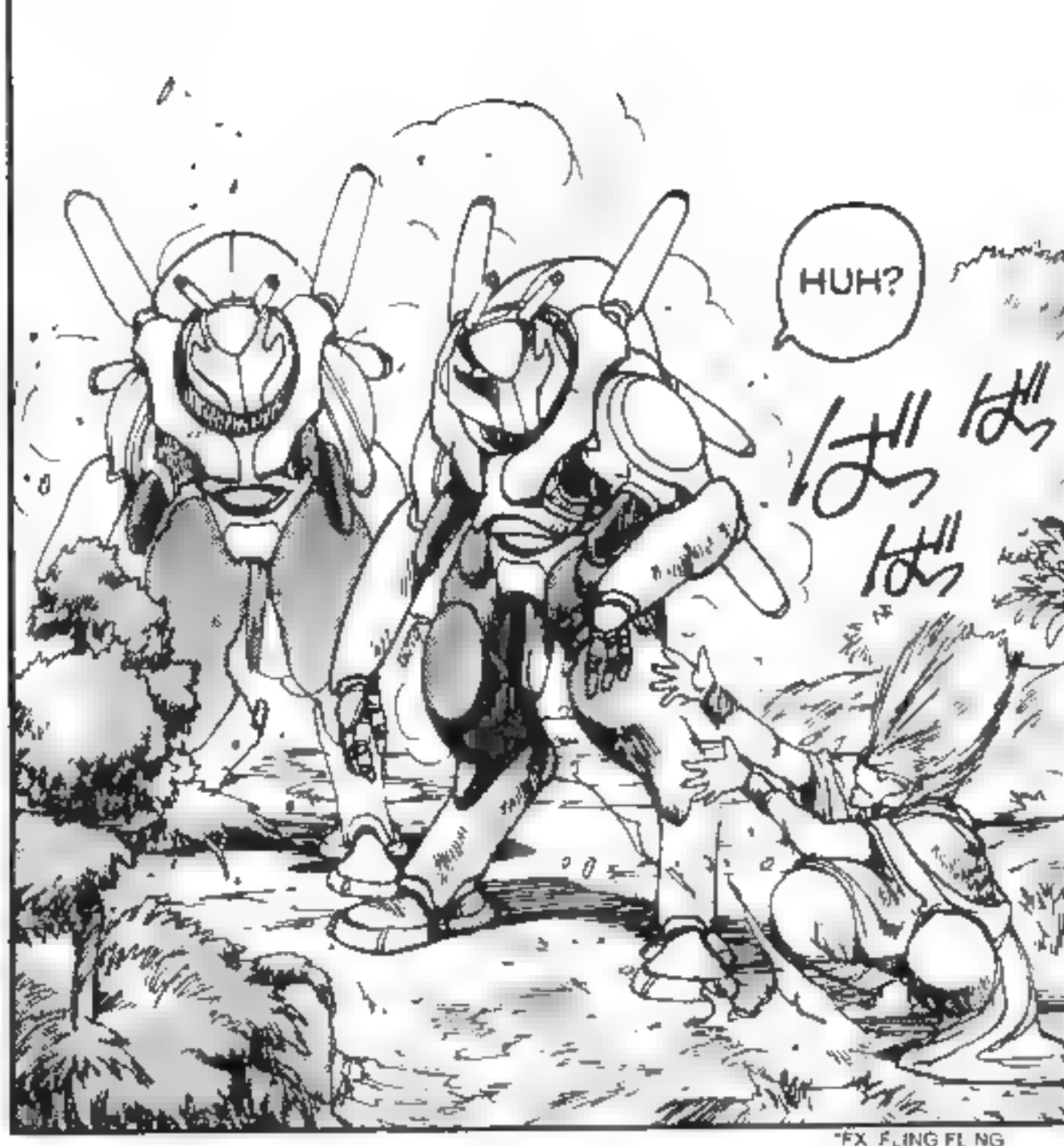
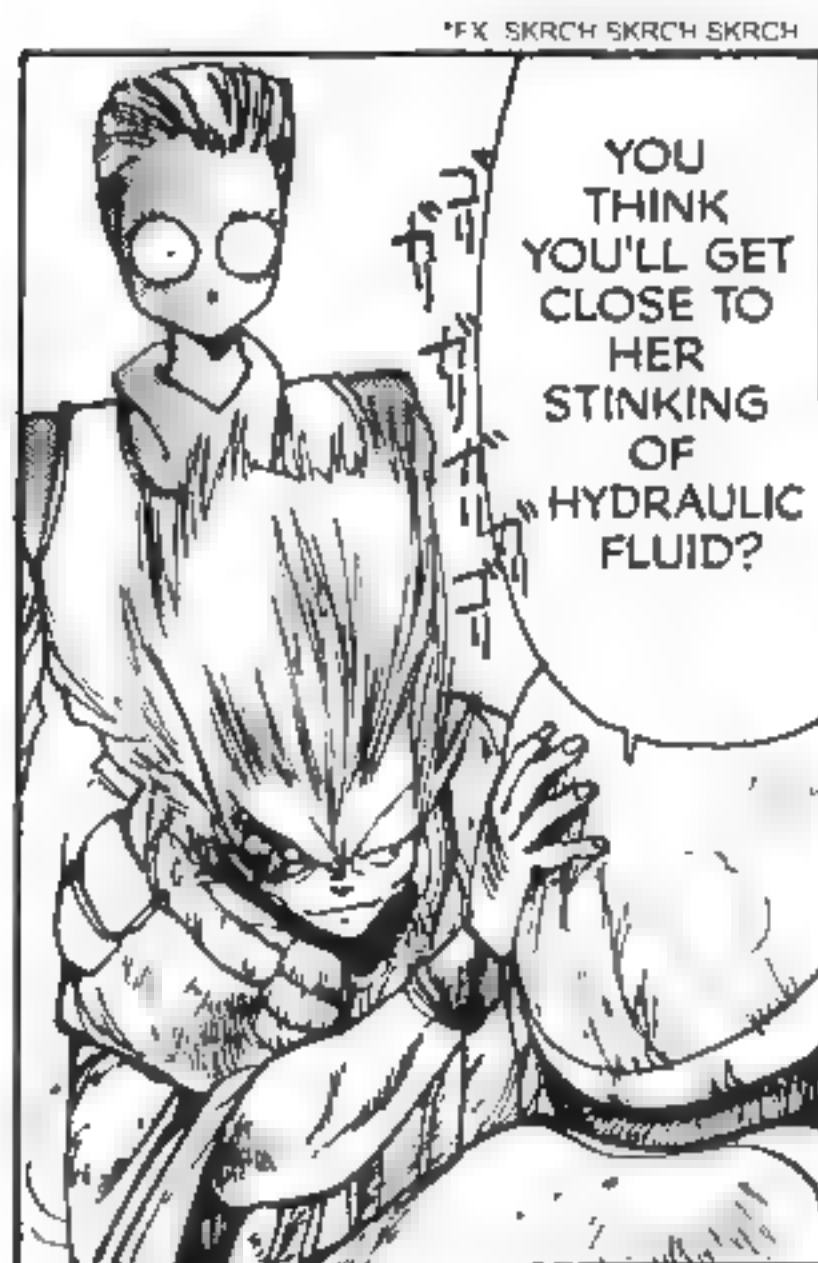
YOU'RE WEARING AN UPDATED VERSION, AN "OR-PHEUS."

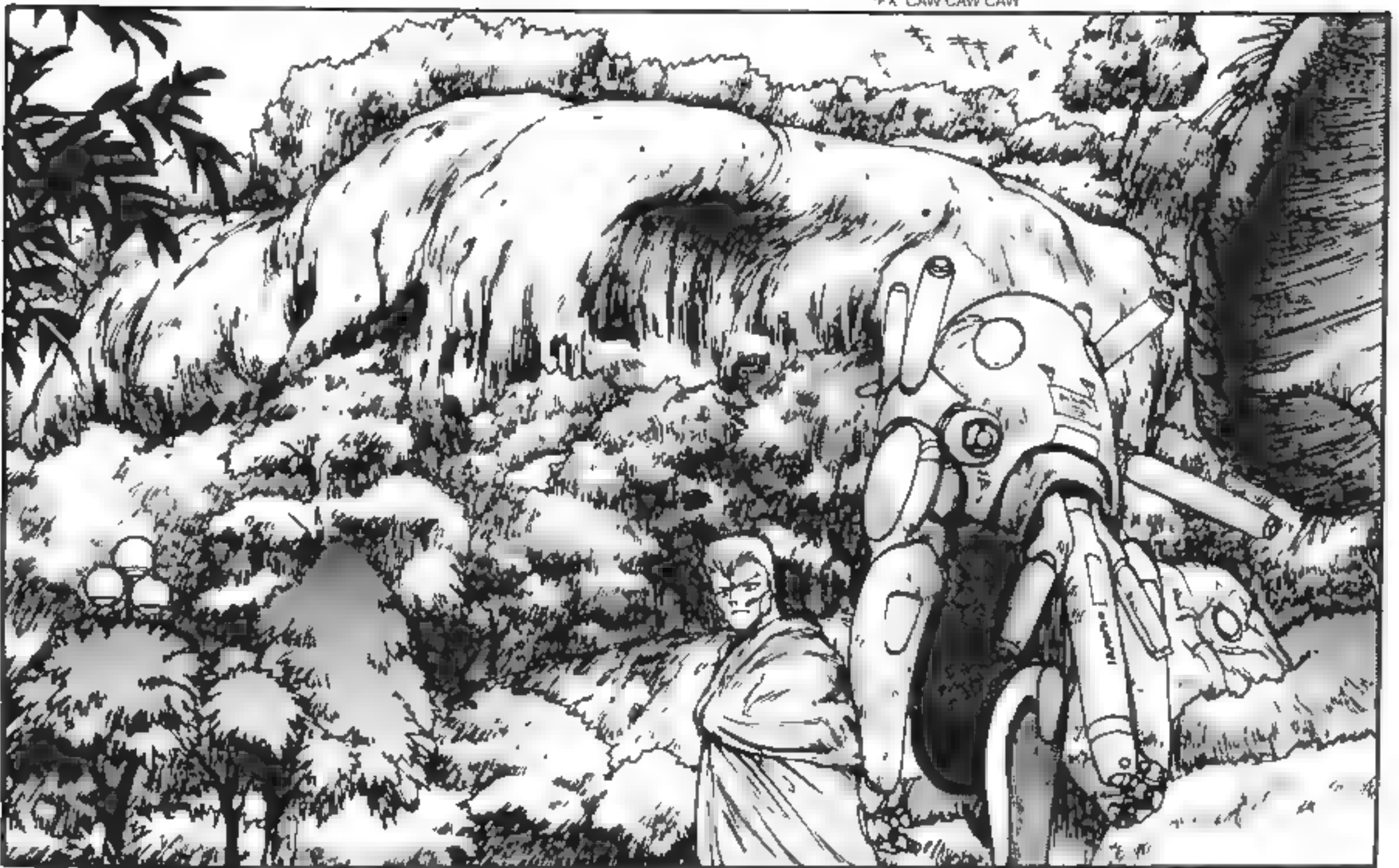


THEY'RE THE FIRST TO BE MADE ENTIRELY IN OLYMPUS.

THEY LOOK DIFFERENT FROM OTHER LANDMATES.









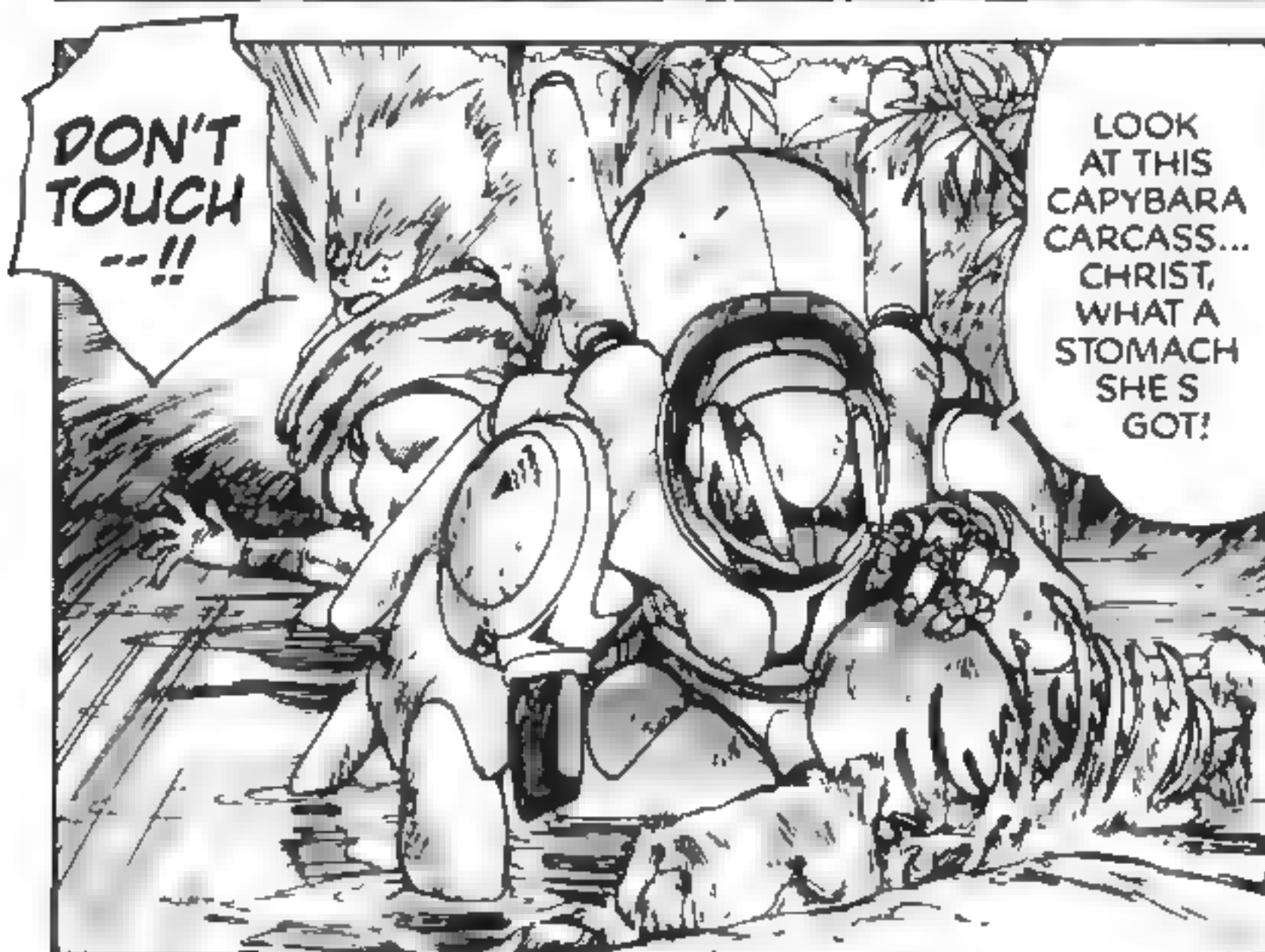


SHOULDN'T  
HAVE  
RESTRIC-  
TIONS IN  
A PLACE  
LIKE  
THIS.

A TASTE OF  
ANCIENT DAYS...

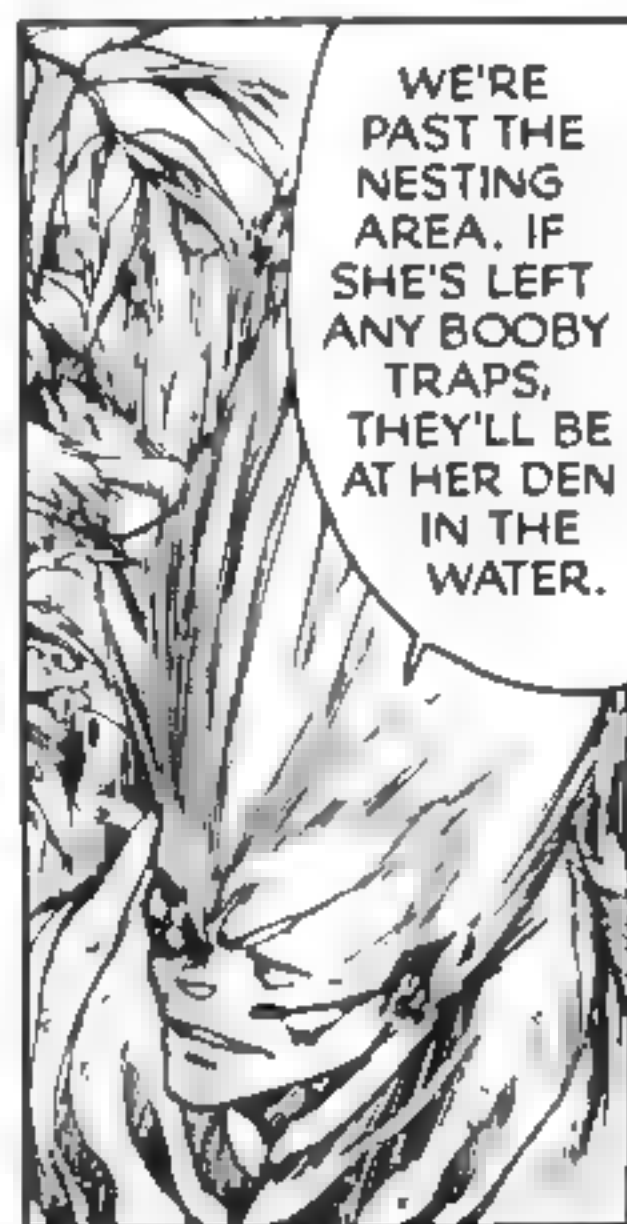


OFFICIALLY,  
THIS AREA IS  
OFF LIMITS TO  
VEHICLES.  
MULTI-LEGGED  
WALKERS ARE  
ACCEPTABLE.

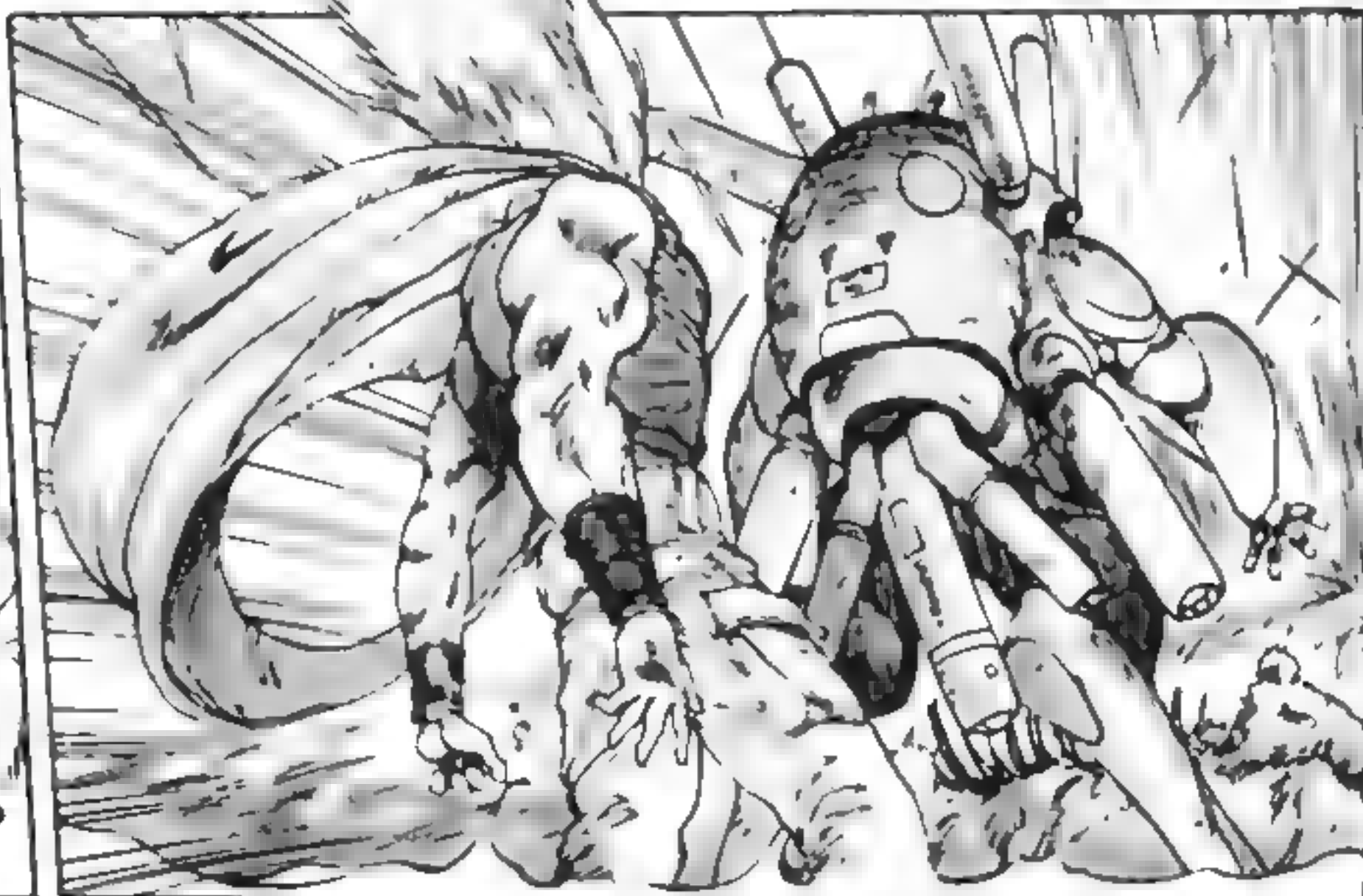
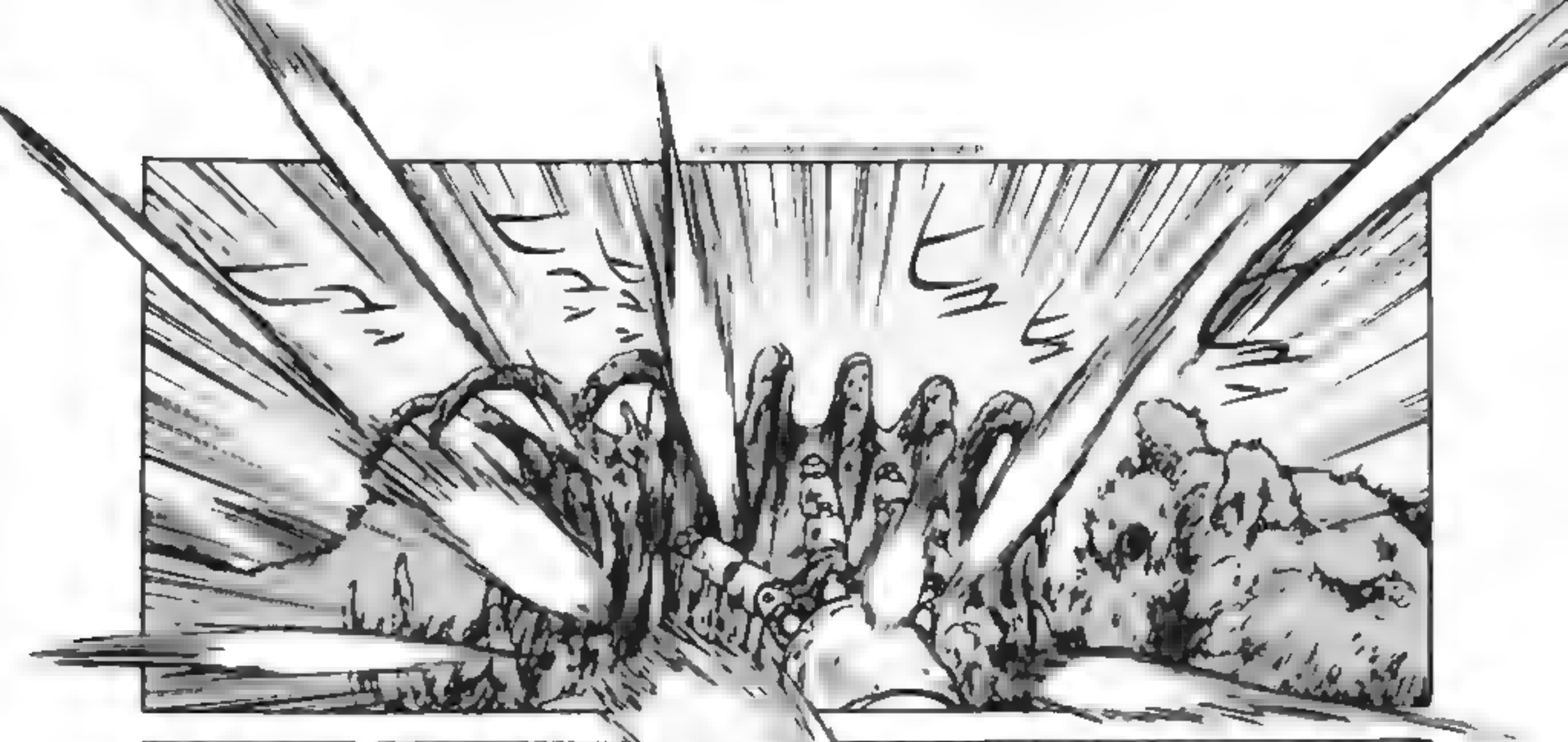


DON'T  
TOUCH  
--!!

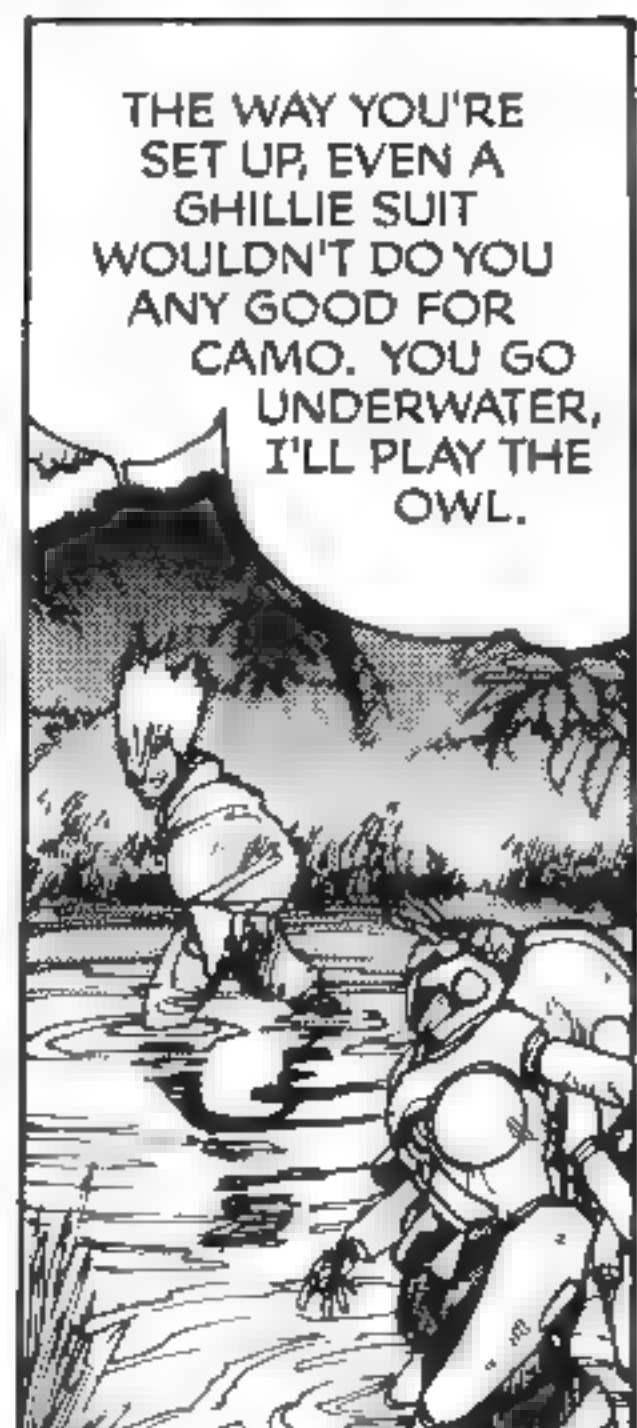
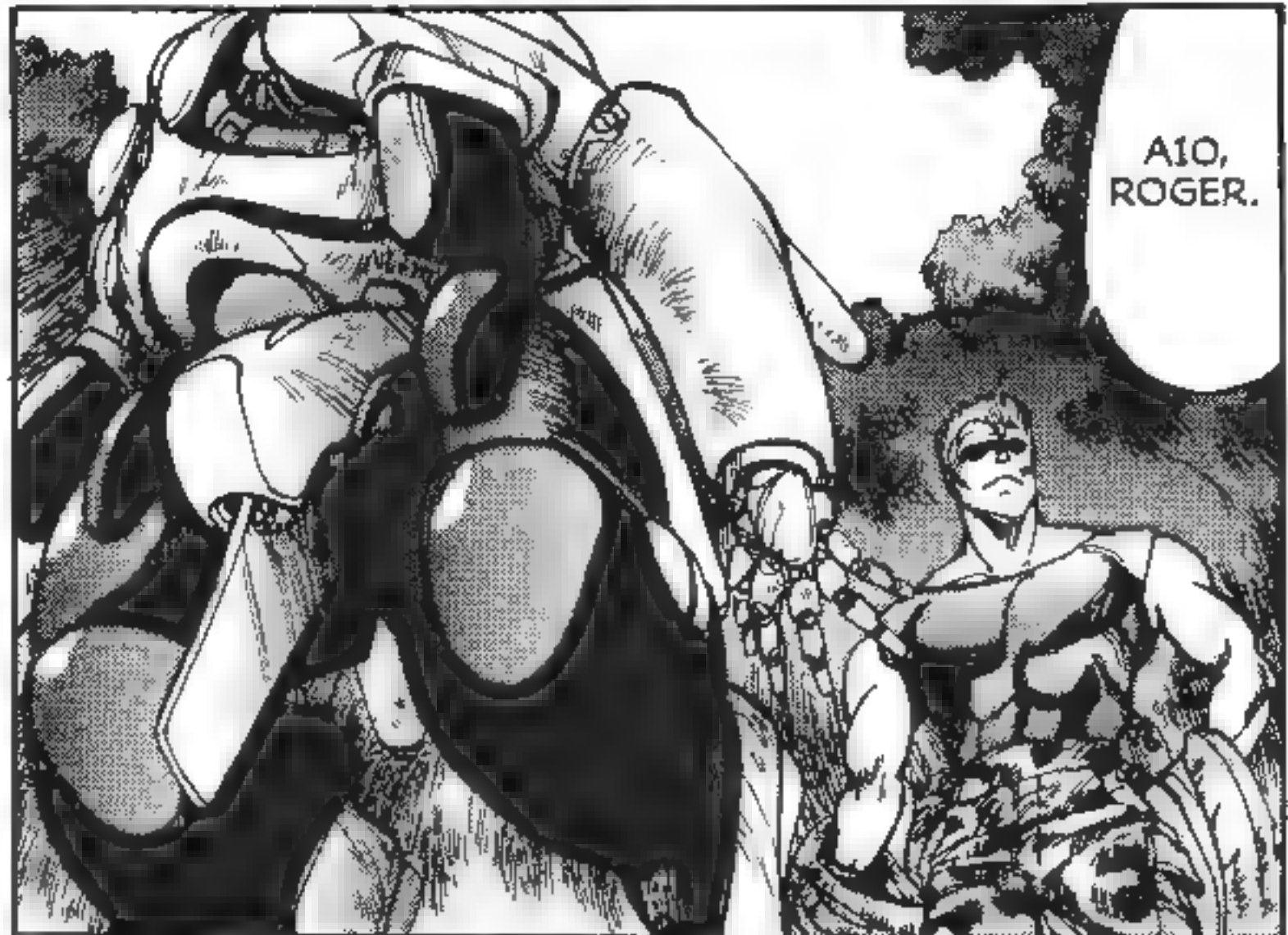
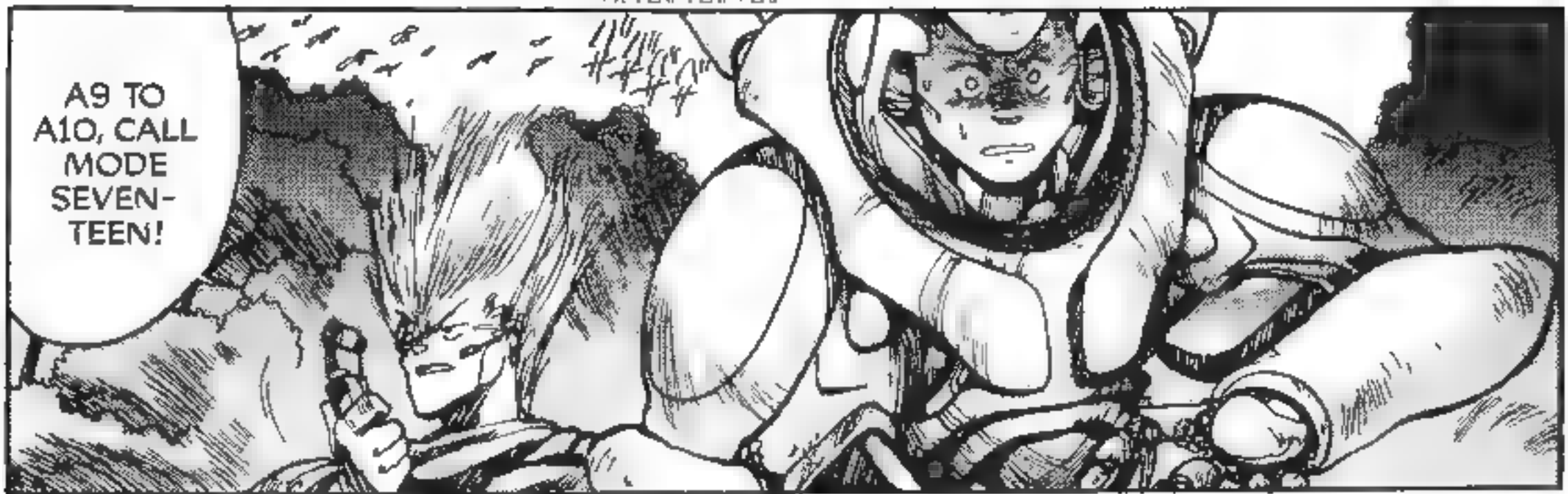
LOOK  
AT THIS  
CAPYBARA  
CARCASS...  
CHRIST,  
WHAT A  
STOMACH  
SHE'S  
GOT!

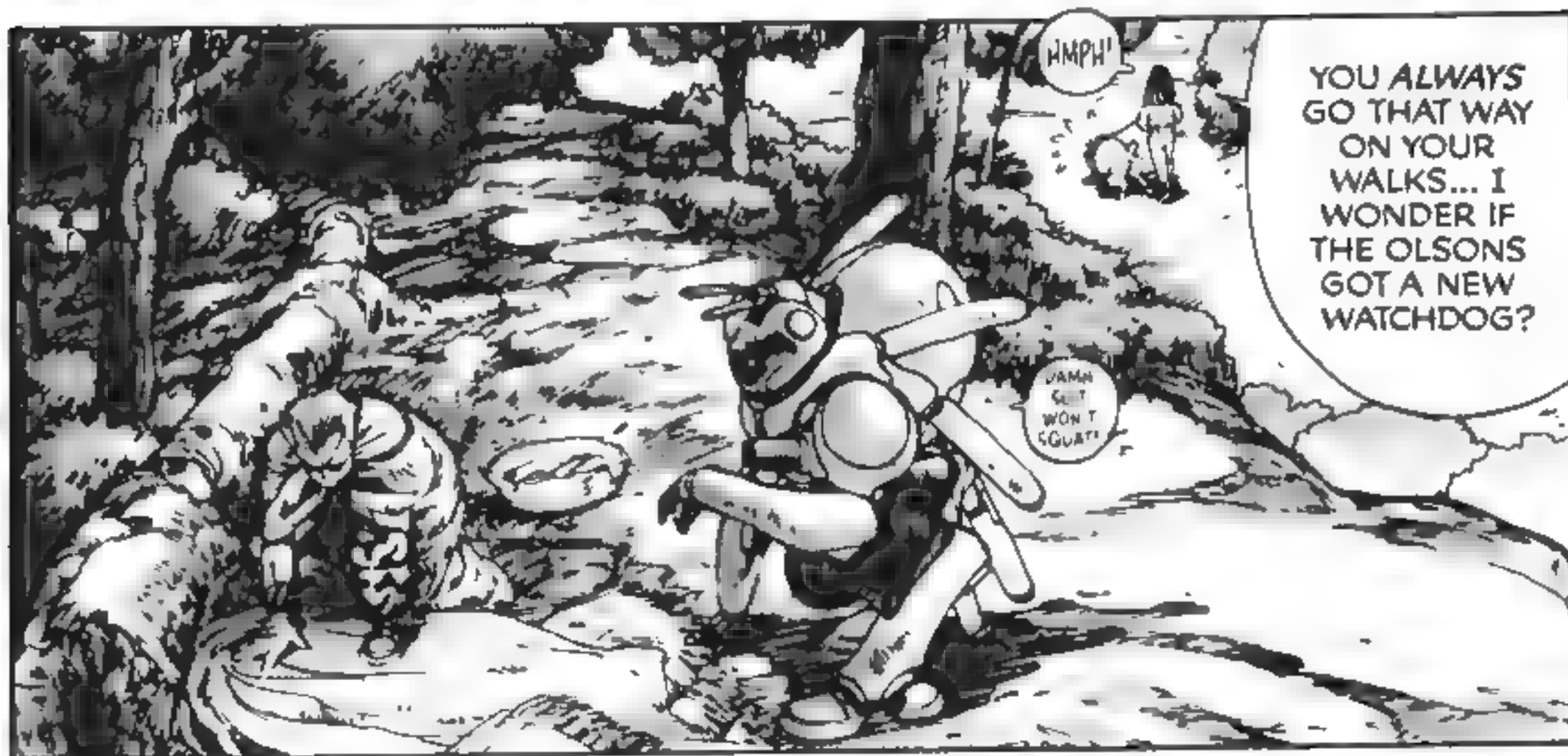


WE'RE  
PAST THE  
NESTING  
AREA. IF  
SHE'S LEFT  
ANY BOOBY  
TRAPS,  
THEY'LL BE  
AT HER DEN  
IN THE  
WATER.













NOTE! Characteristic feline sightless powers of concentration



DAMN THINGS GAVE ME THE RUNS TOO

YA KNOW, THE ROBI TRIBE ON THE OUTER VOLTA IN AFRICA FISH WITH ARROWS LIKE THAT. I SEEN 'EM. WHEN I TRIED IT IN THE AMAZON, TOOK ME ALL DAY TO NAIL TWO CATFISH.

A10 TO A9, CALL MODE FOURTEEN, CODE THREE.

Upper volta: northern cote d'ivoire western ghana Bantux ken country in western africa



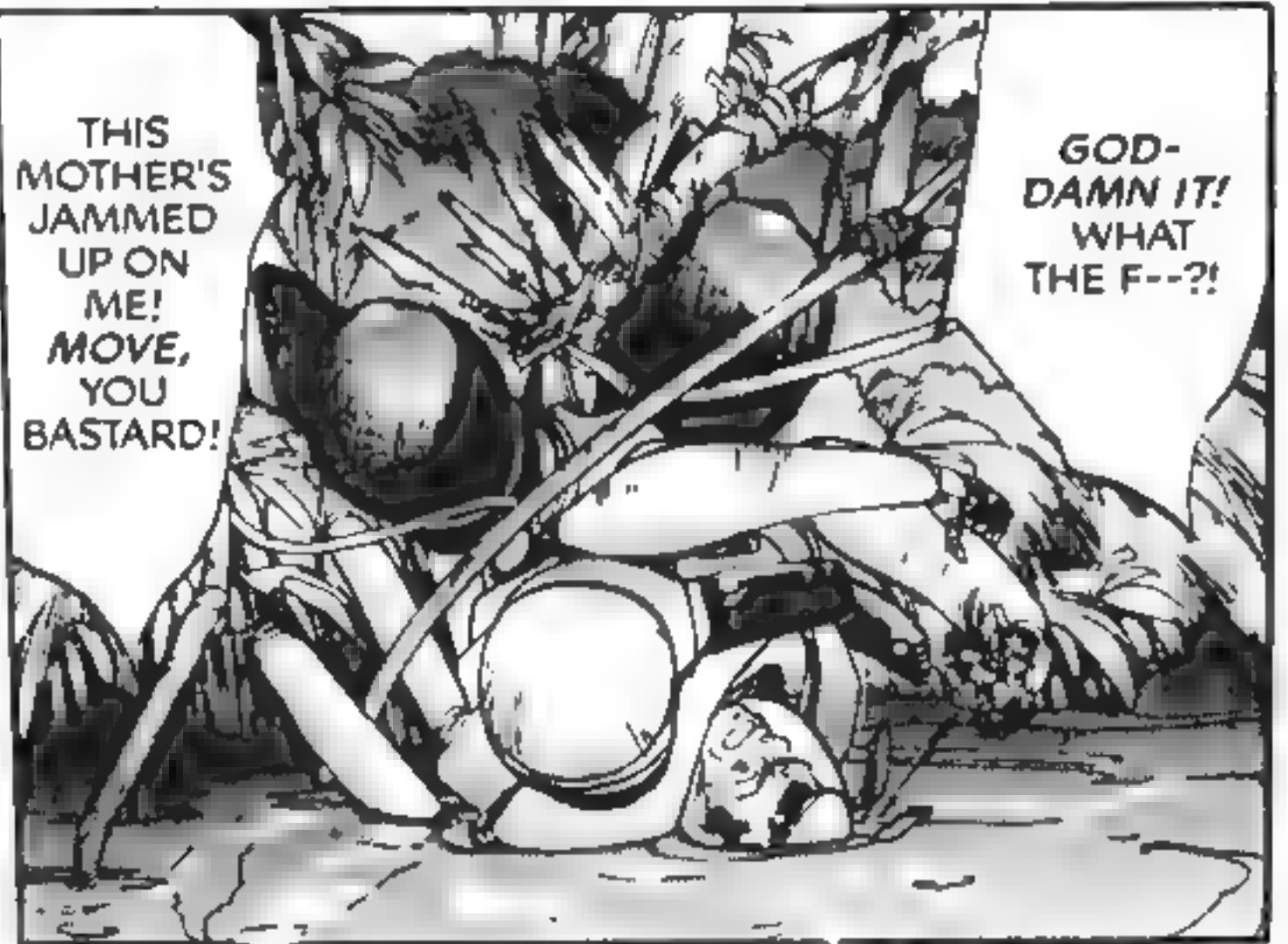






IT'S LEAKING!

OH, FRIGGIN' GREAT!!



THIS MOTHER'S JAMMED UP ON ME! MOVE, YOU BASTARD!

GOD-DAMN IT! WHAT THE F--?!



HAHH!



KRRK

KRRK

MOVE! MOVE!



JESUS, WHAT A GOD-DAMN JOKE!

HEY!



FX SHU SHU

OOPS.

FX THUK THUK

!

FX SHIF

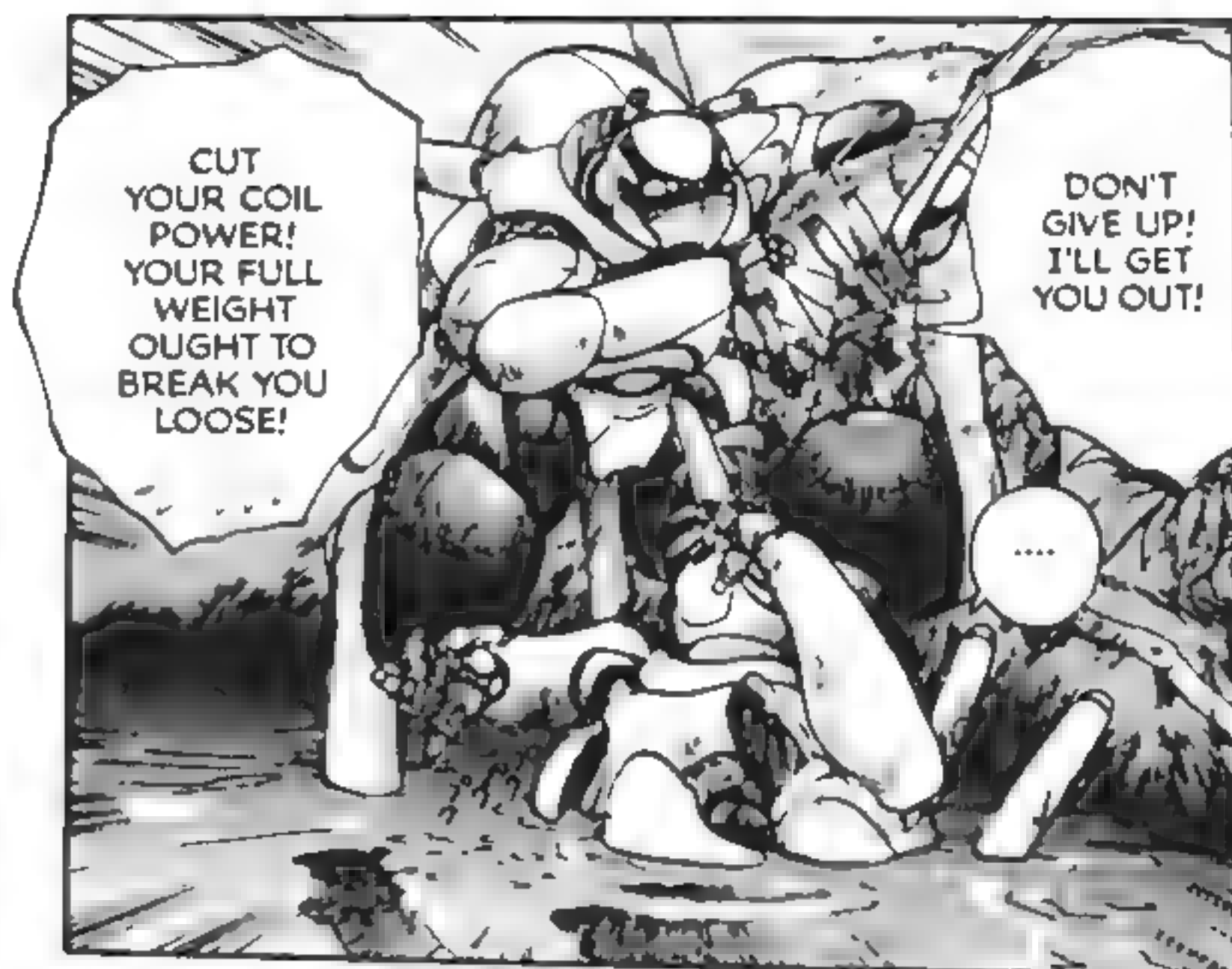
FX SPLASH

COVER  
ME!!

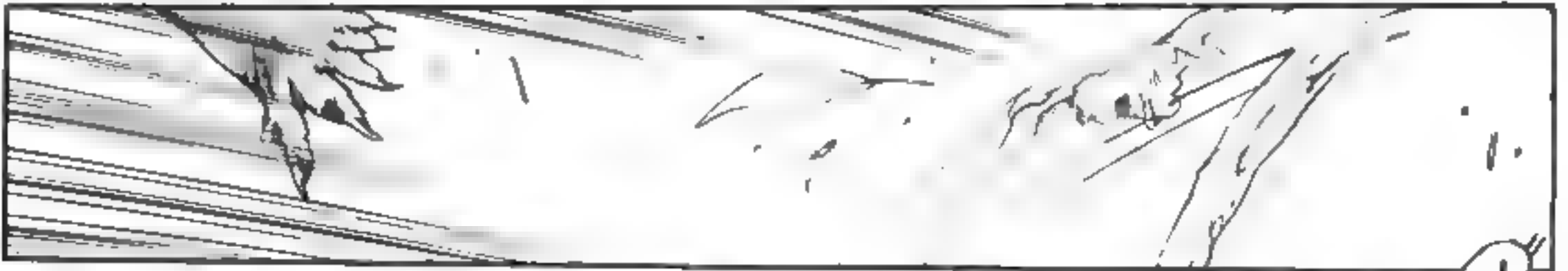
HELP  
ME, FOR  
CHRIST'S  
SAKE!

I'M  
SINKING--  
GLURG-

HEAD  
HER  
OFF!



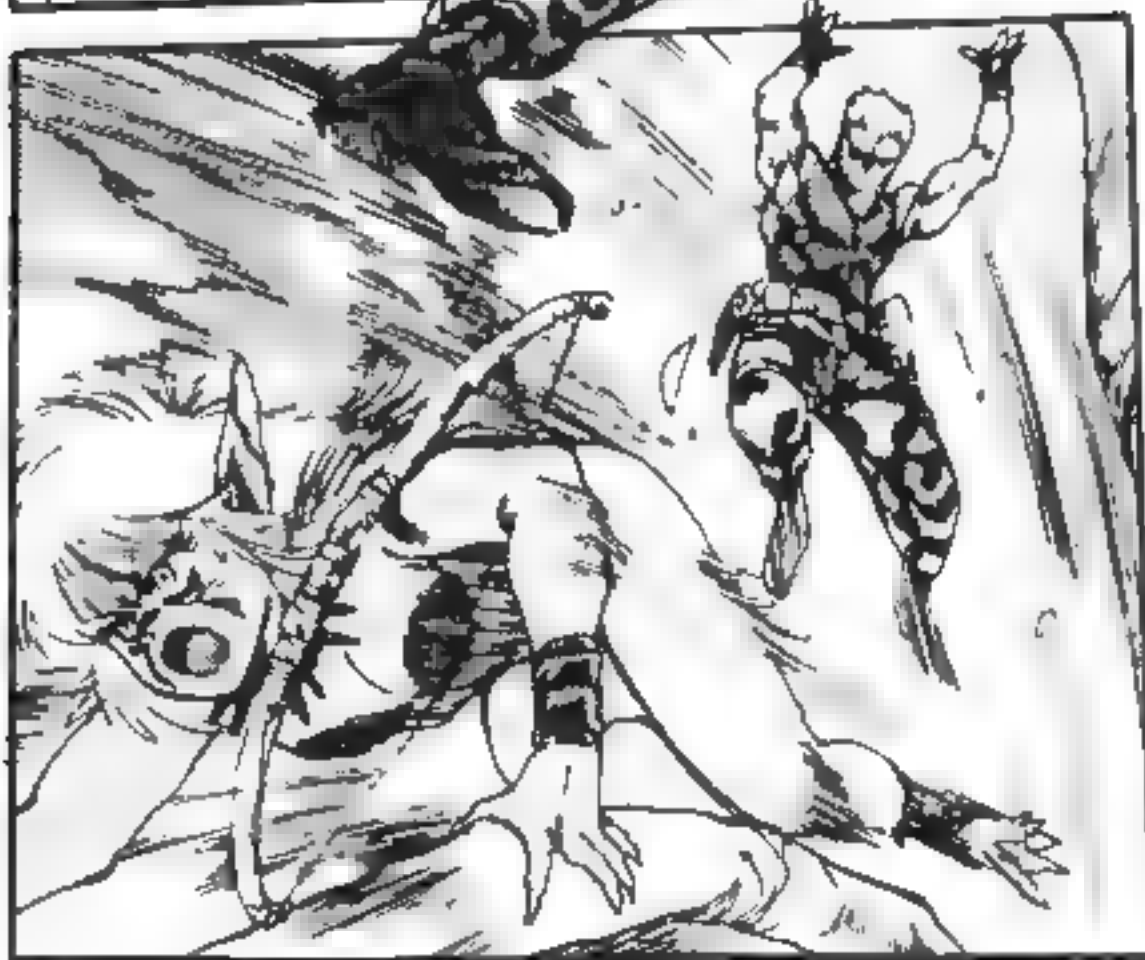




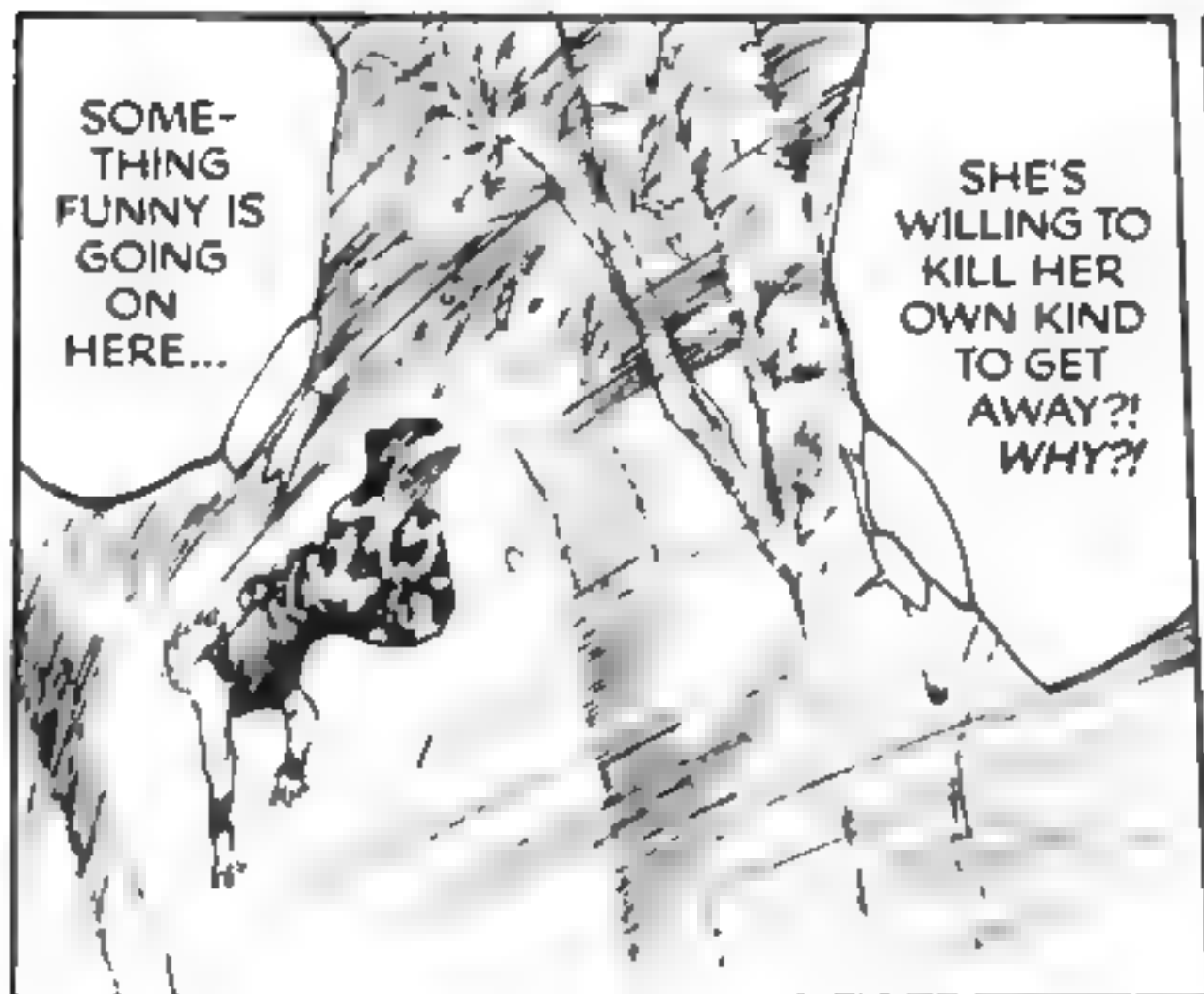
\*FX FTANGG



\*FX WHSST

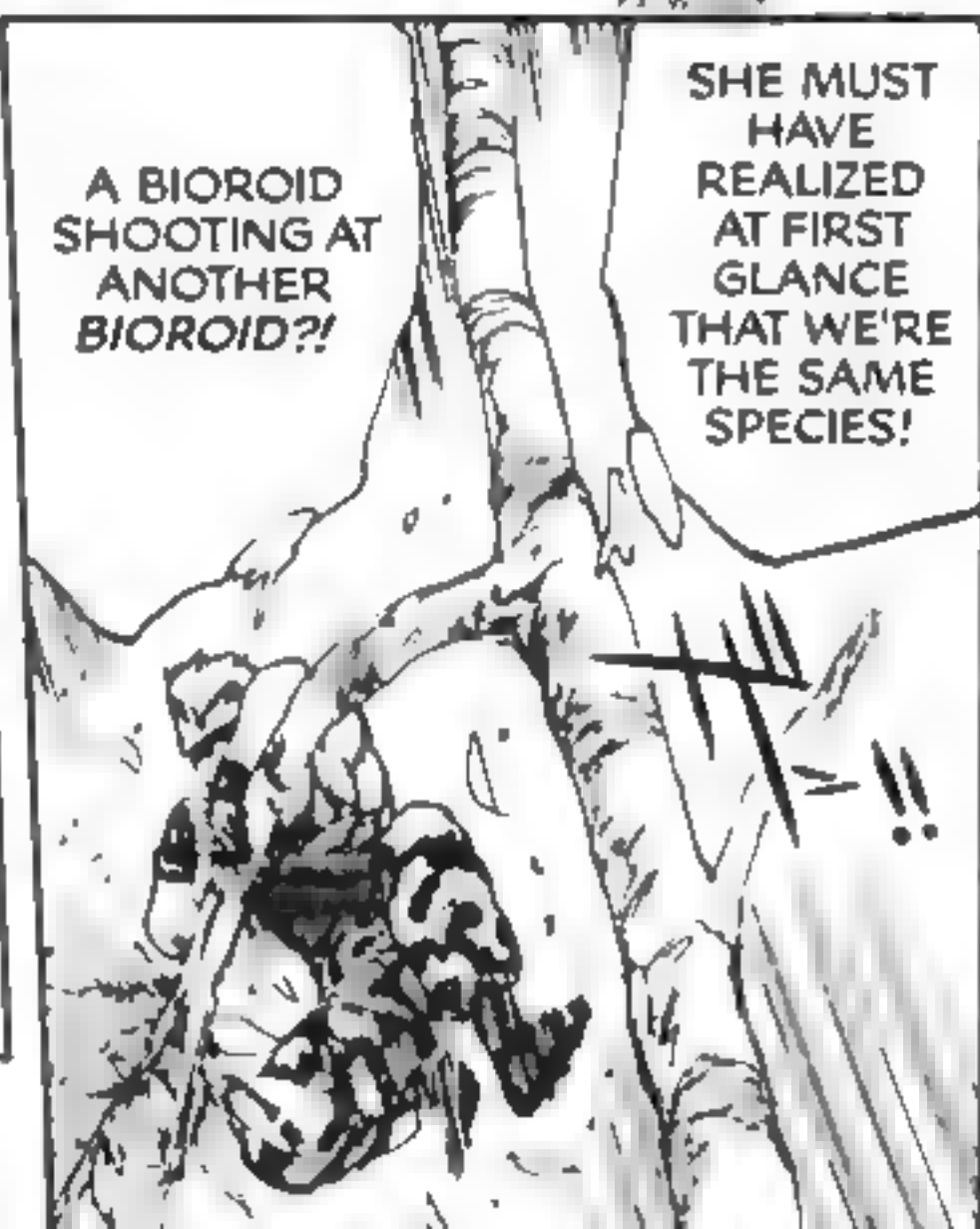






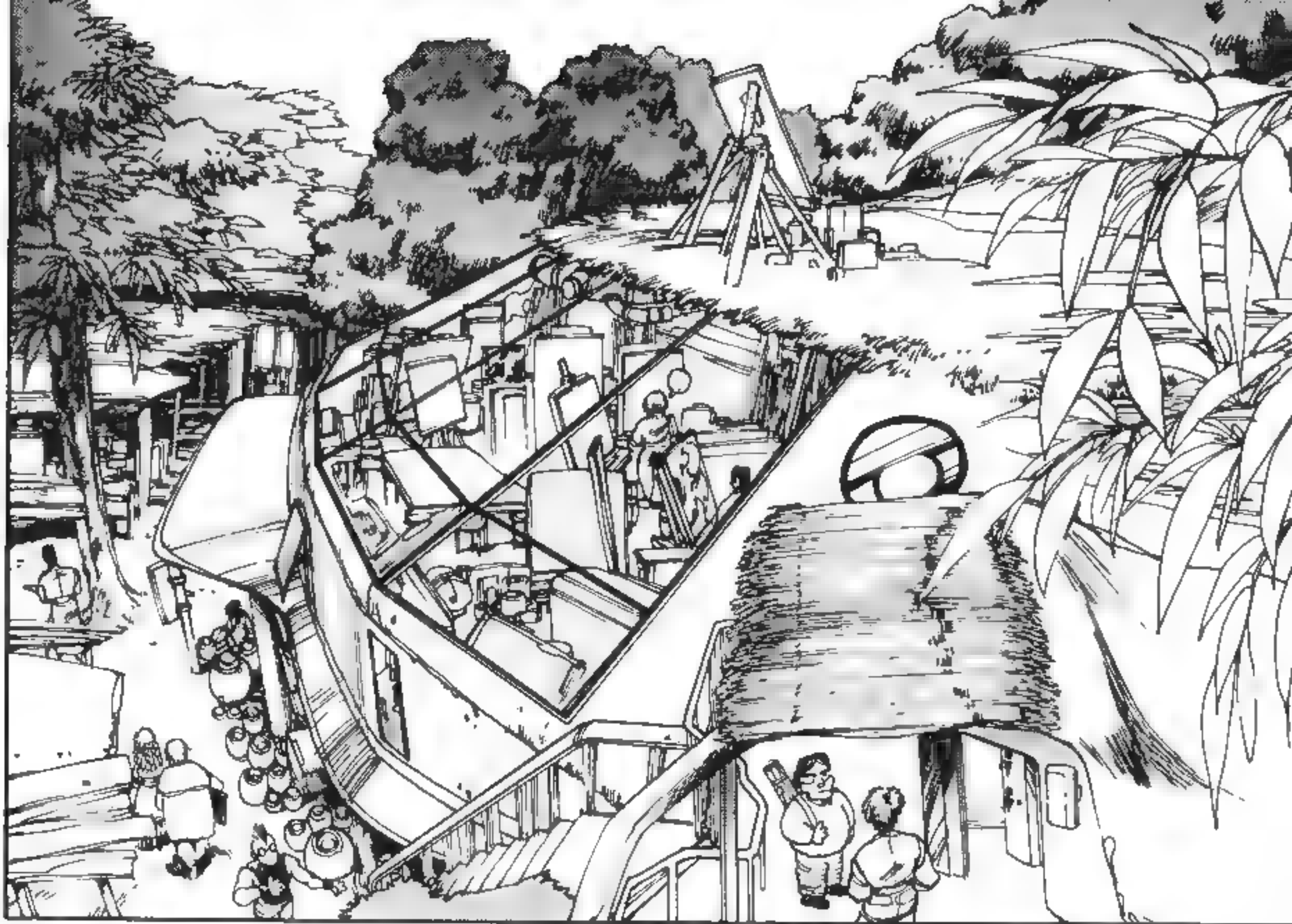
SOME-  
THING  
FUNNY IS  
GOING  
ON  
HERE...

SHE'S  
WILLING TO  
KILL HER  
OWN KIND  
TO GET  
AWAY?!  
WHY?!



A BIOROID  
SHOOTING AT  
ANOTHER  
BIOROID?!

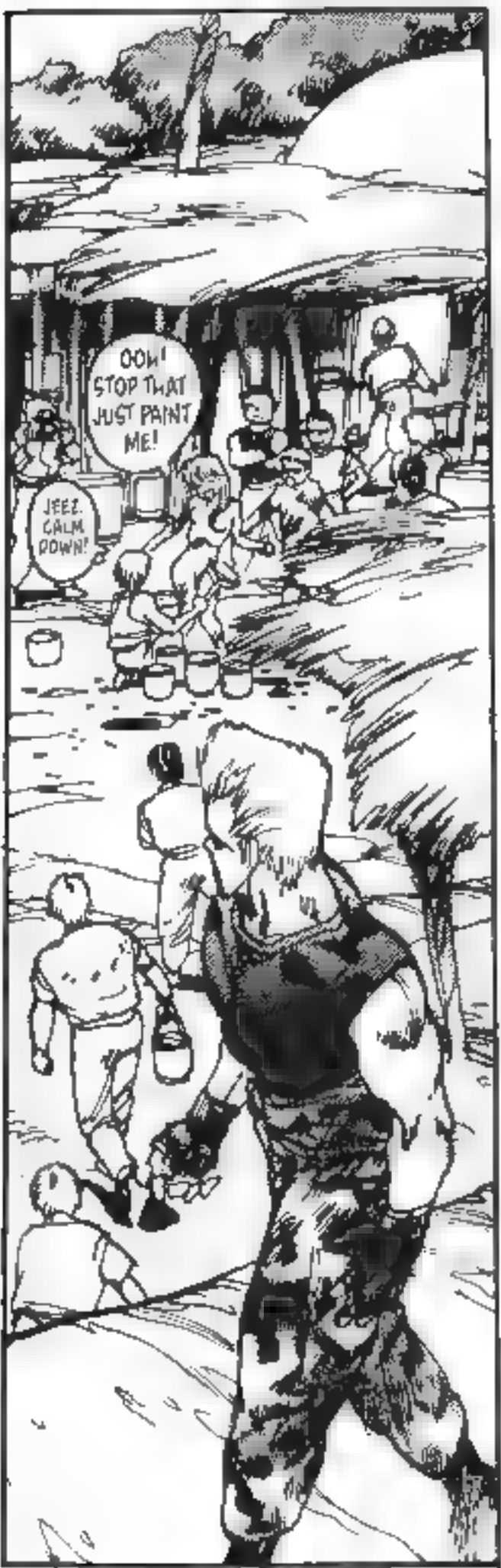
SHE MUST  
HAVE  
REALIZED  
AT FIRST  
GLANCE  
THAT WE'RE  
THE SAME  
SPECIES!

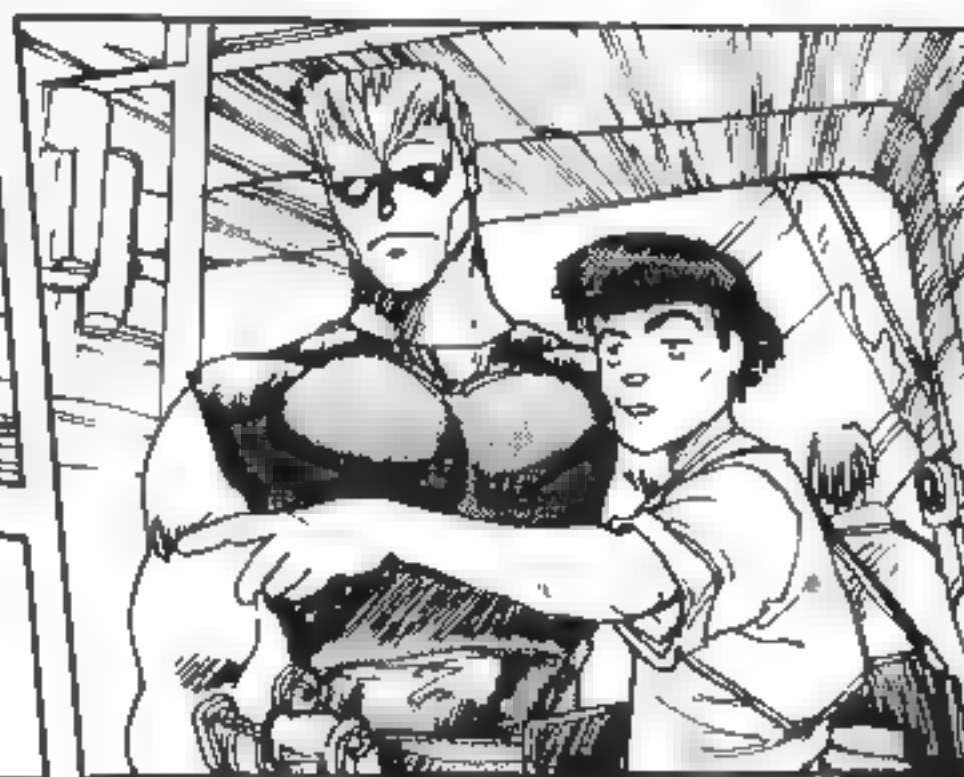
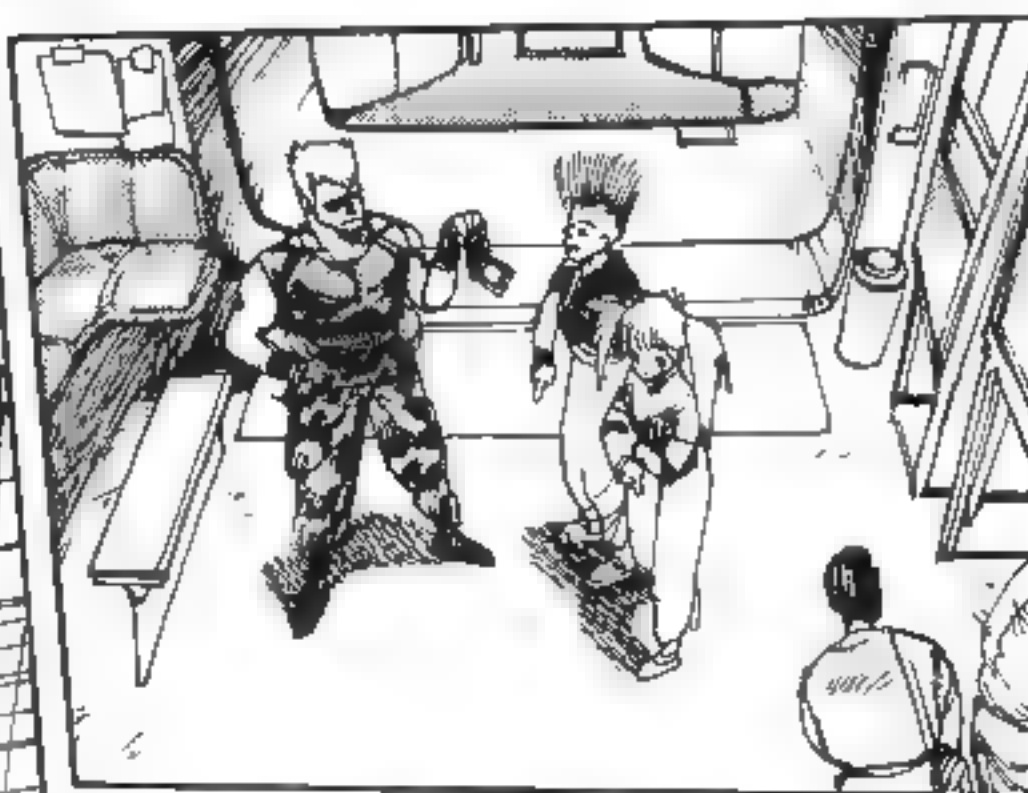
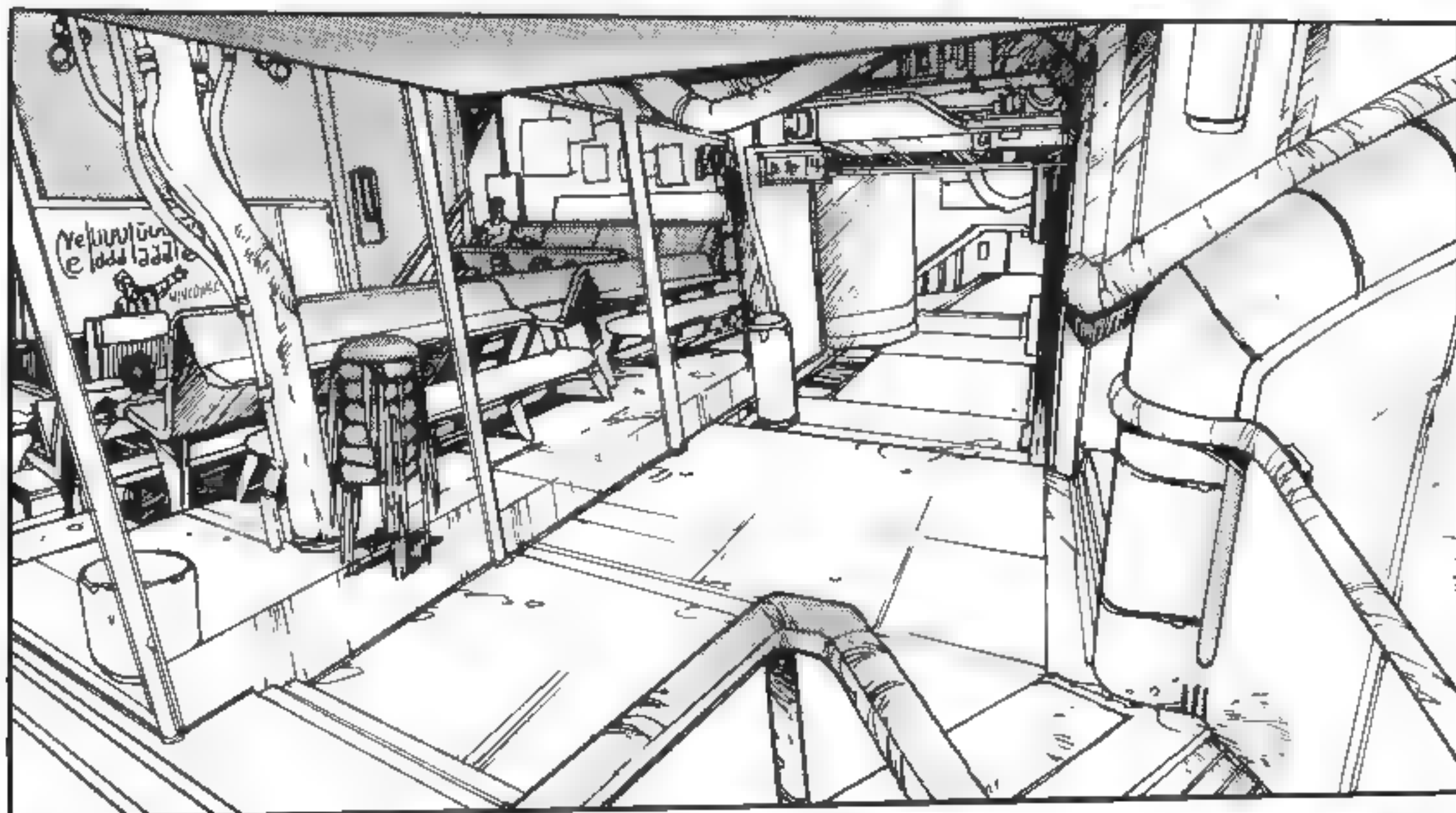
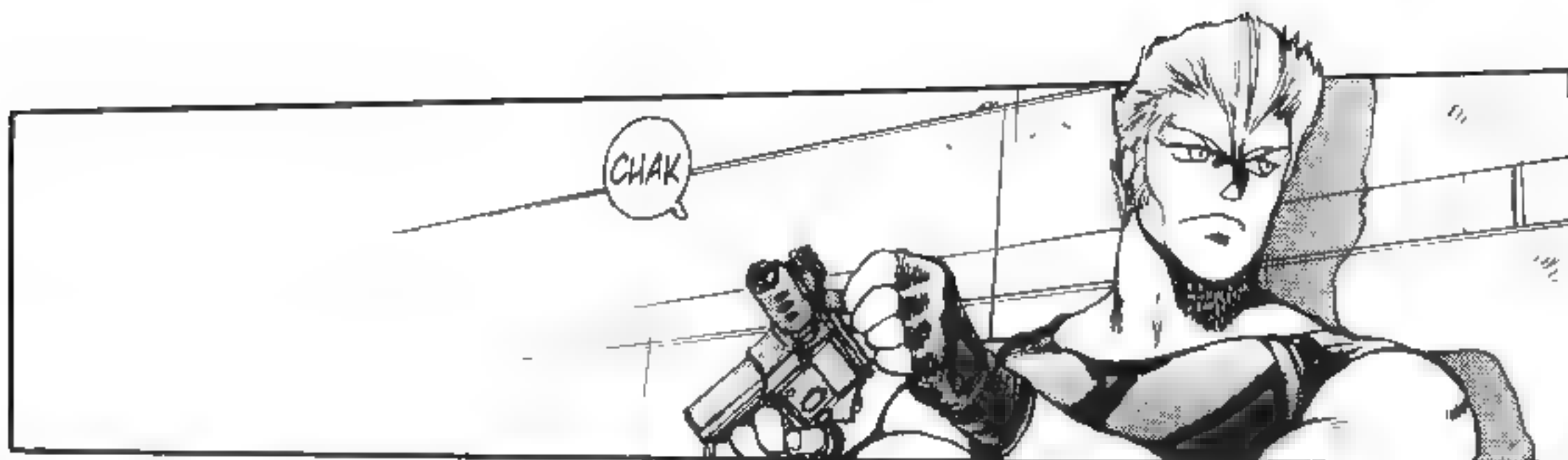


FX SKRASHH

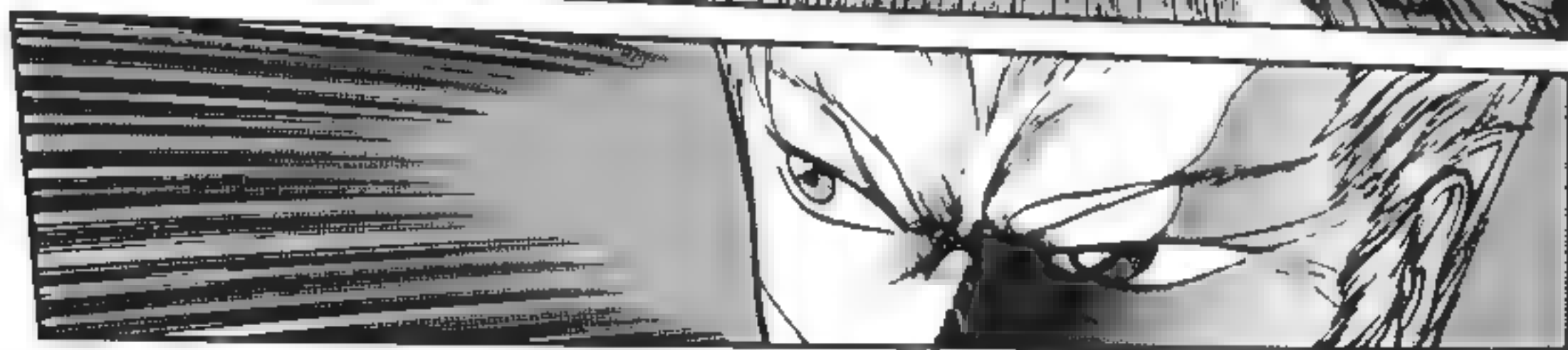
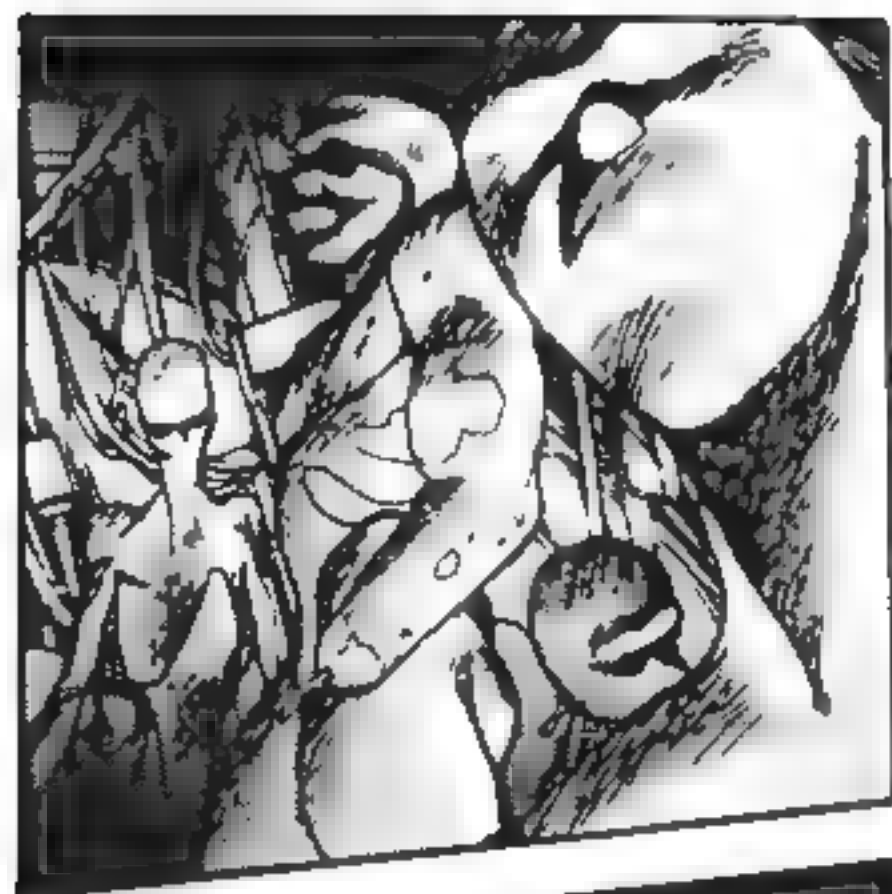




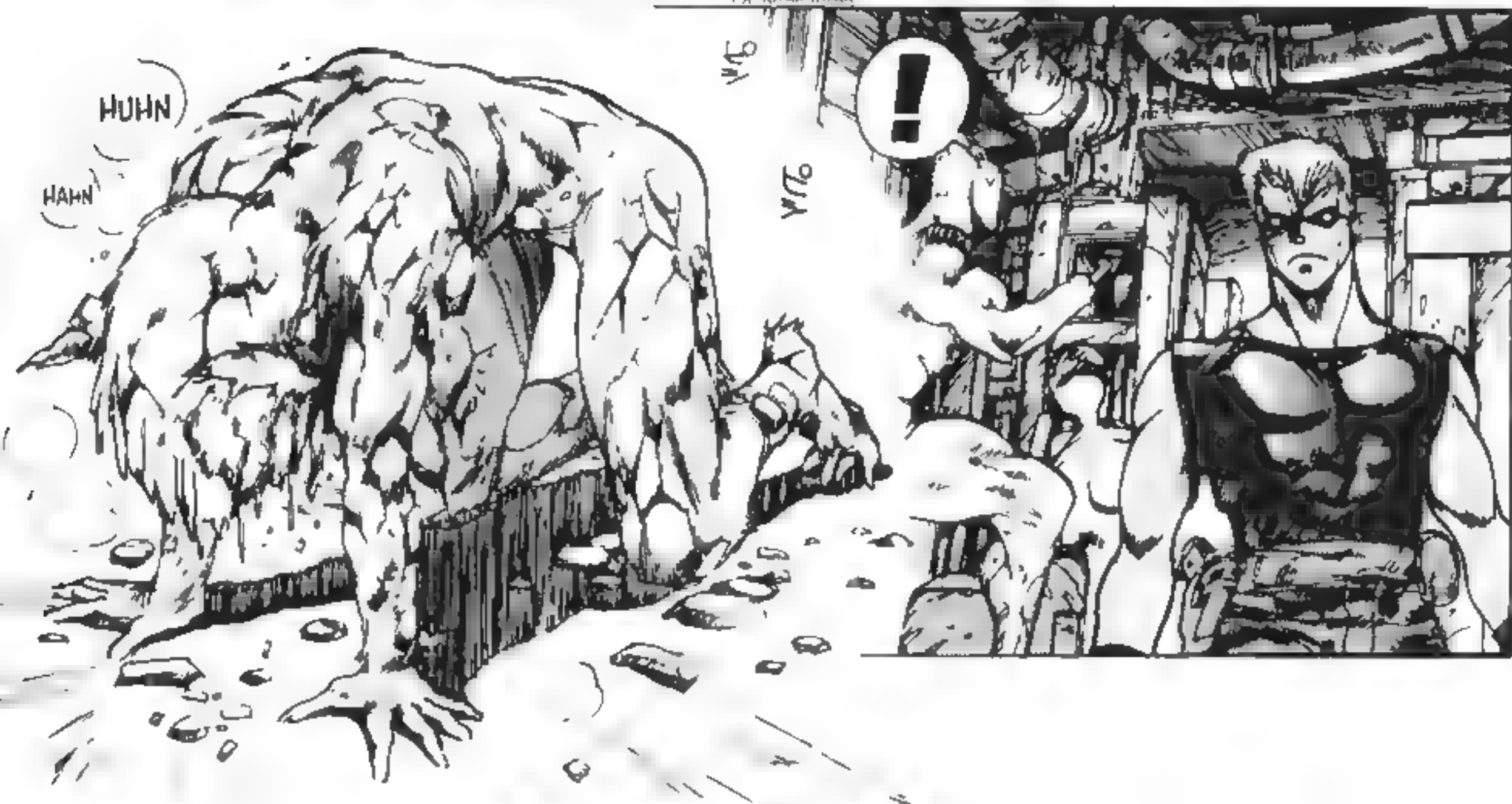


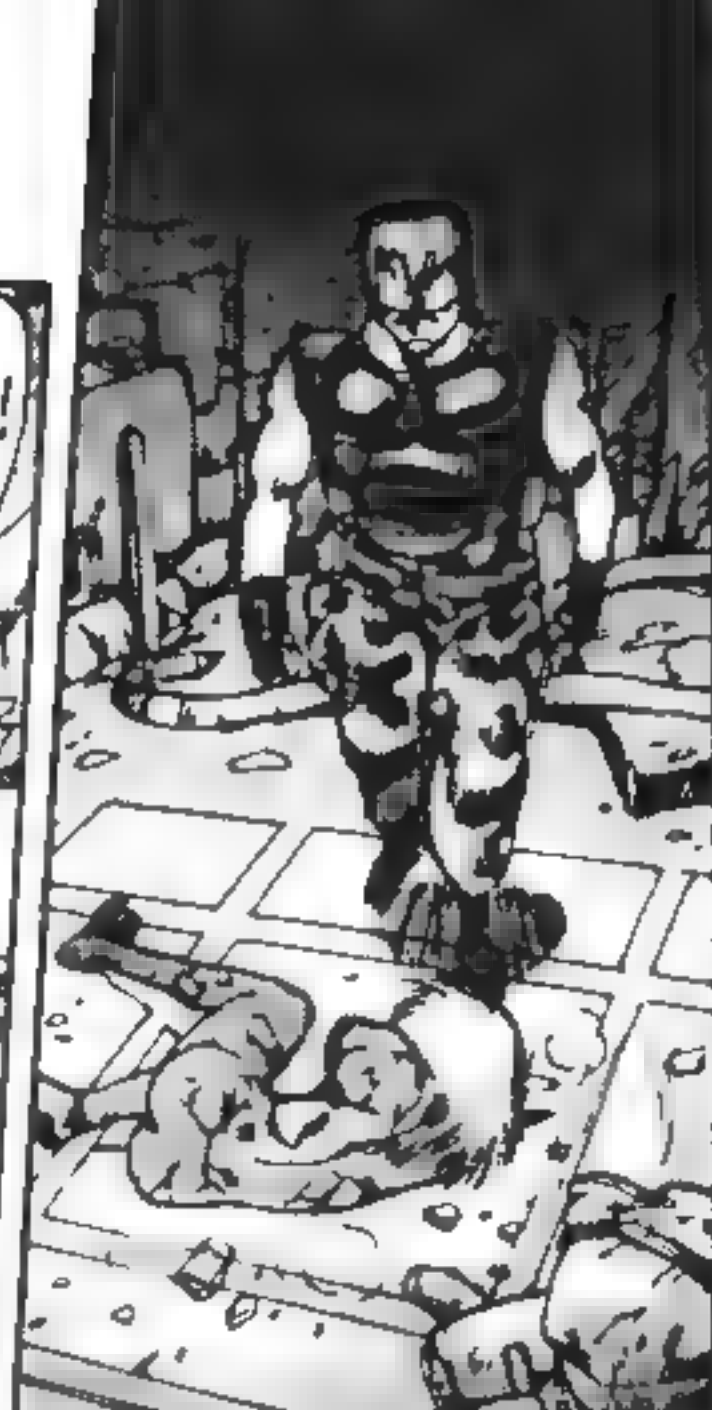






\*FX KPAH KPAH









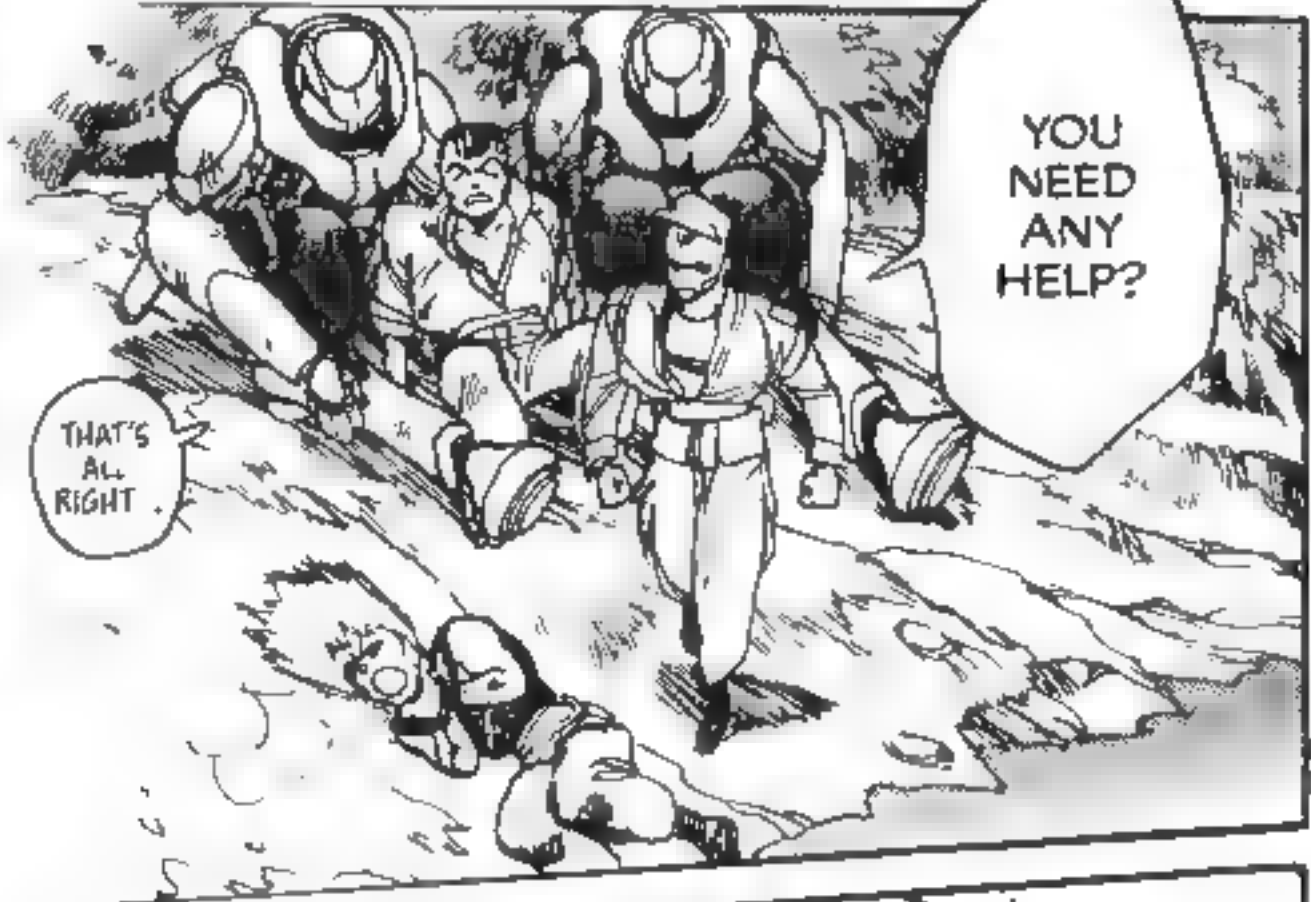
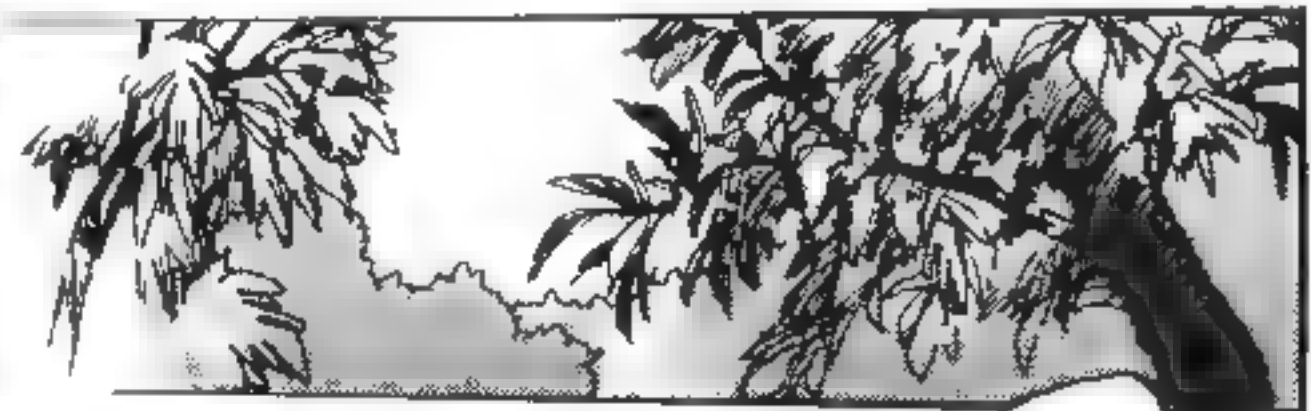
UNHHE

YOU'RE A  
BIOROID---  
DO YOUR  
DUTY!

PTSS

DO YOU  
THINK YOU  
COULD  
PRETEND TO  
BE A STATUE  
AND HIDE  
FOREVER?  
LIFE ISN'T  
SO EASY...

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?



YOU  
NEED  
ANY  
HELP?

THAT'S  
ALL  
RIGHT





\*FX WHDD



NO DYING  
WITHOUT  
PERMIS-  
SION!

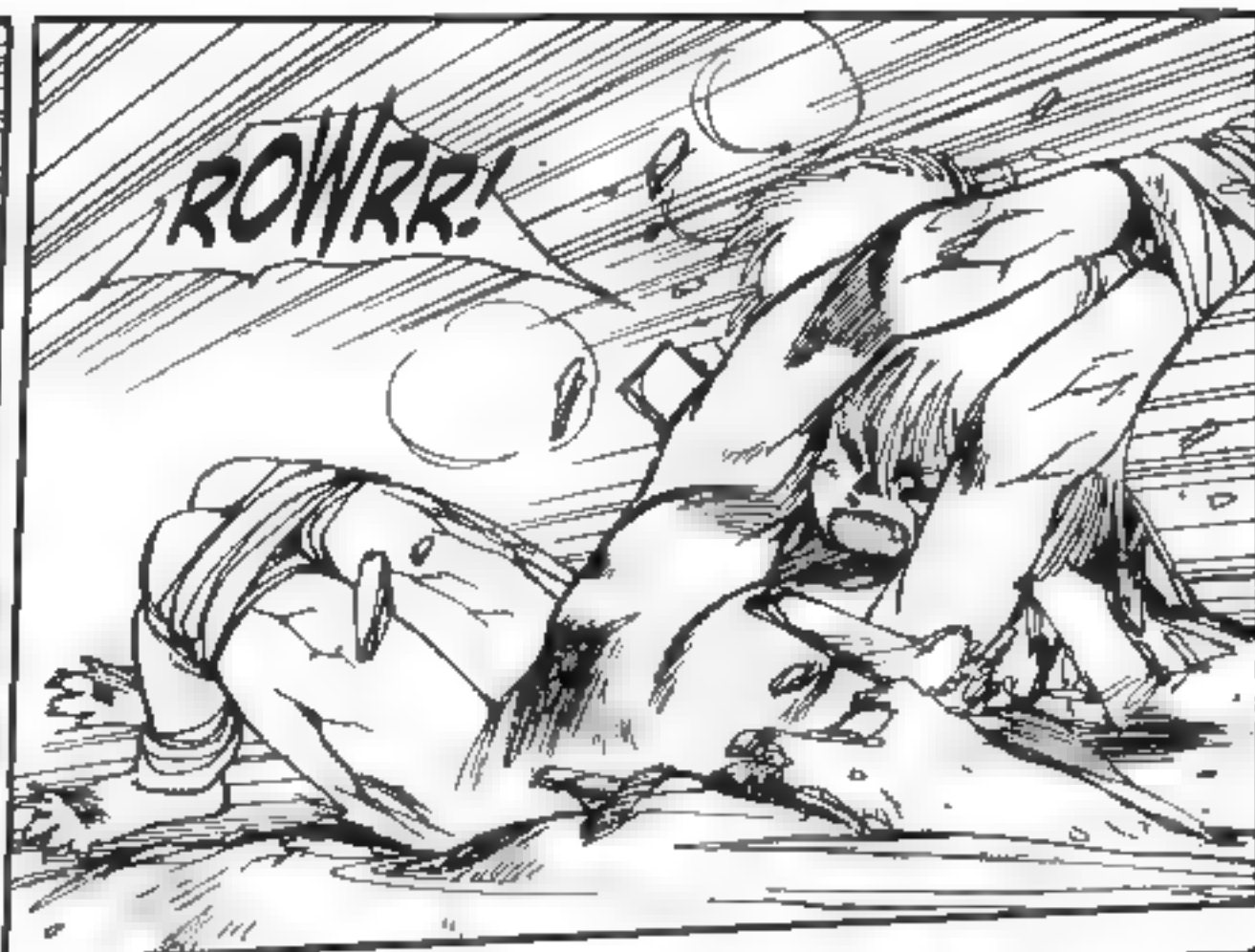
MOVE  
YOURSELF,  
YOU  
FOOL!!  
YOUR  
SYSTEMS  
ARE  
FREEZING  
UP!



IF WE  
CAN  
REVITALIZE  
YOUR  
CELLULAR  
FUNC-  
TIONS,  
YOU'LL  
STILL  
PULL  
THROUGH!







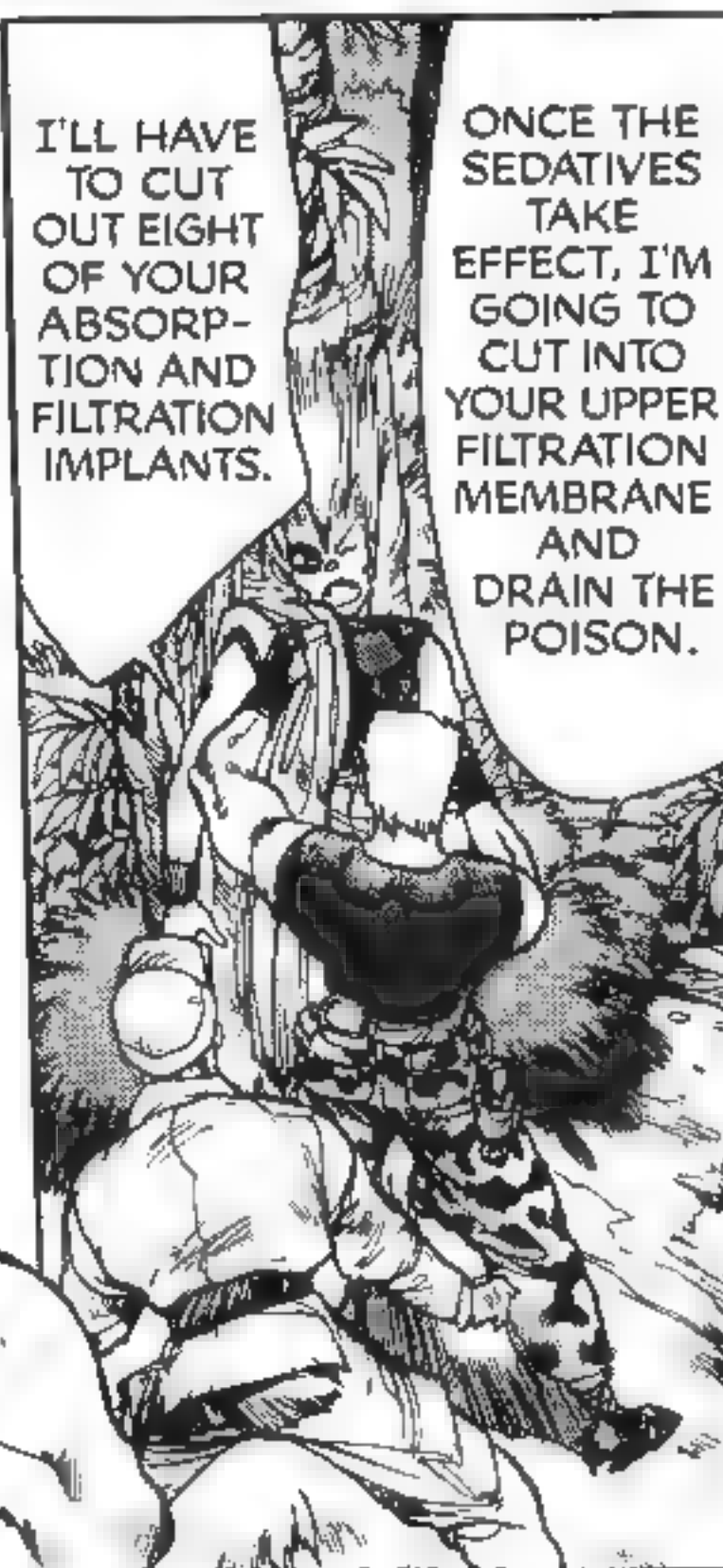
GUH...  
GRANTED...

I'M GOING  
TO INJECT  
YOU WITH  
**KRONOXIN T5**  
AND  
TERMINATE  
YOUR LIFE-  
EXTENSION  
CYCLE.  
PERMIS-  
SION?

Life-extension cannot be terminated without the individual's consent.



YOU BASTARD!  
CAN'T YOU  
TELL THE  
DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN  
YOUR PARTNER  
AND SOME  
KIND OF  
**MACHINE?!**

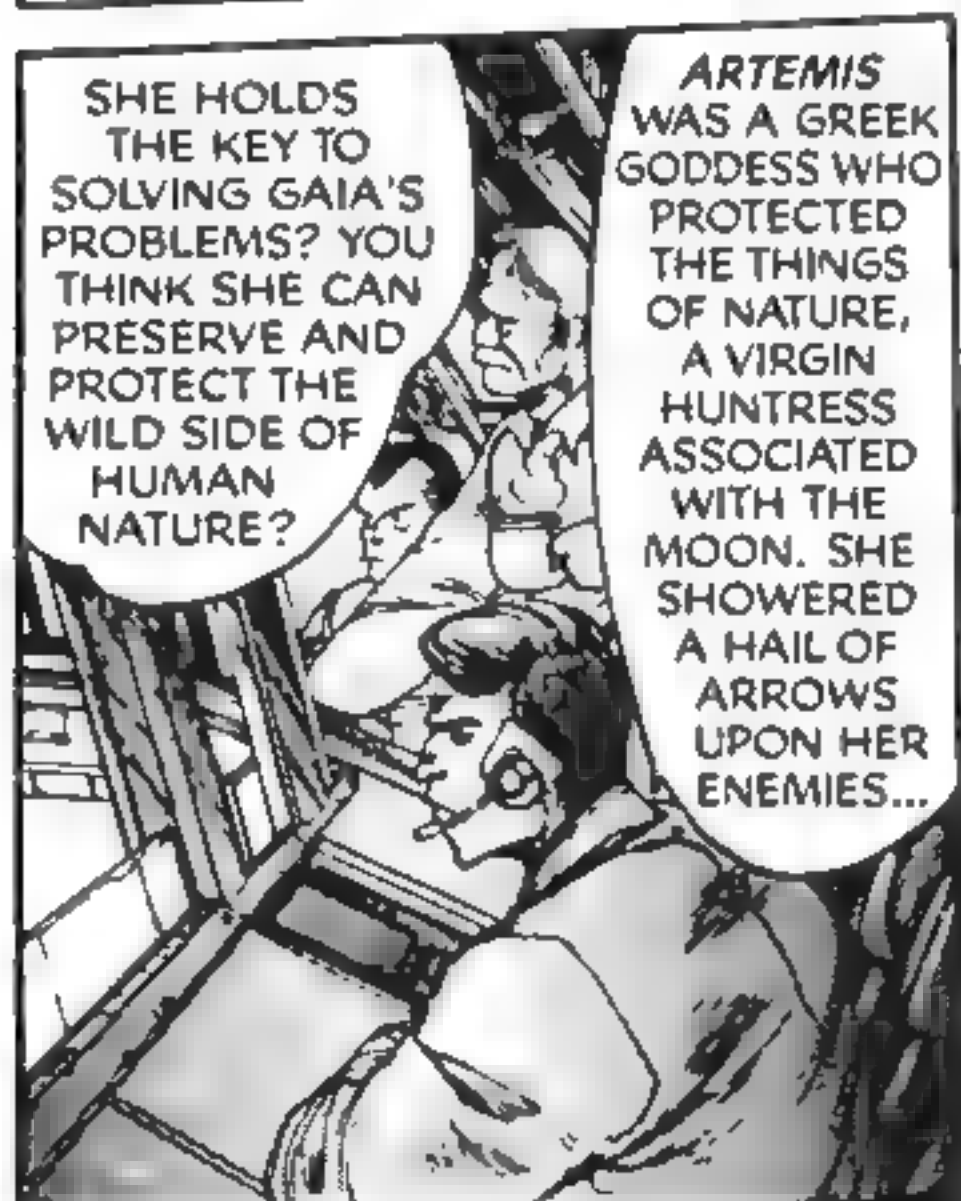
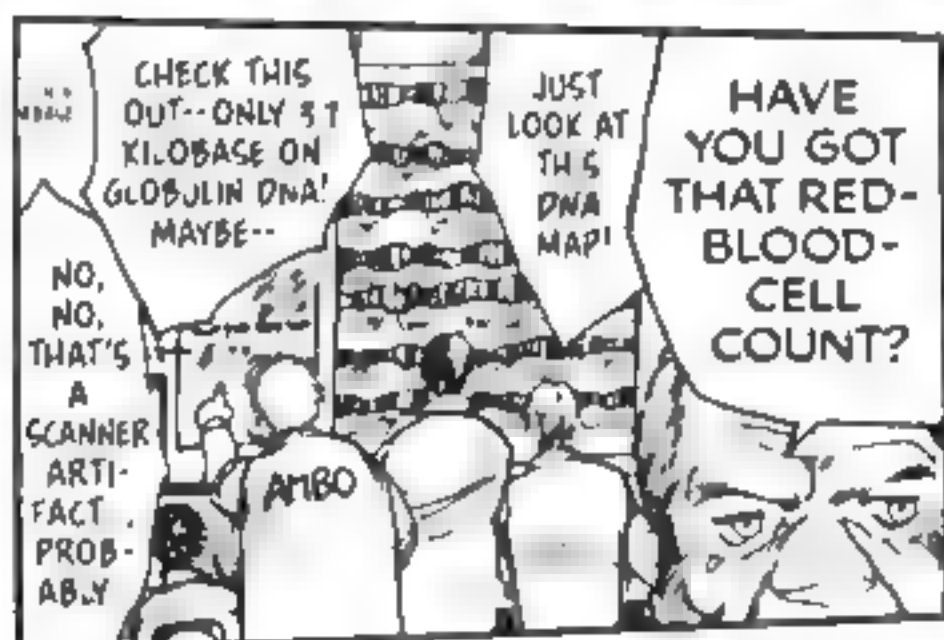
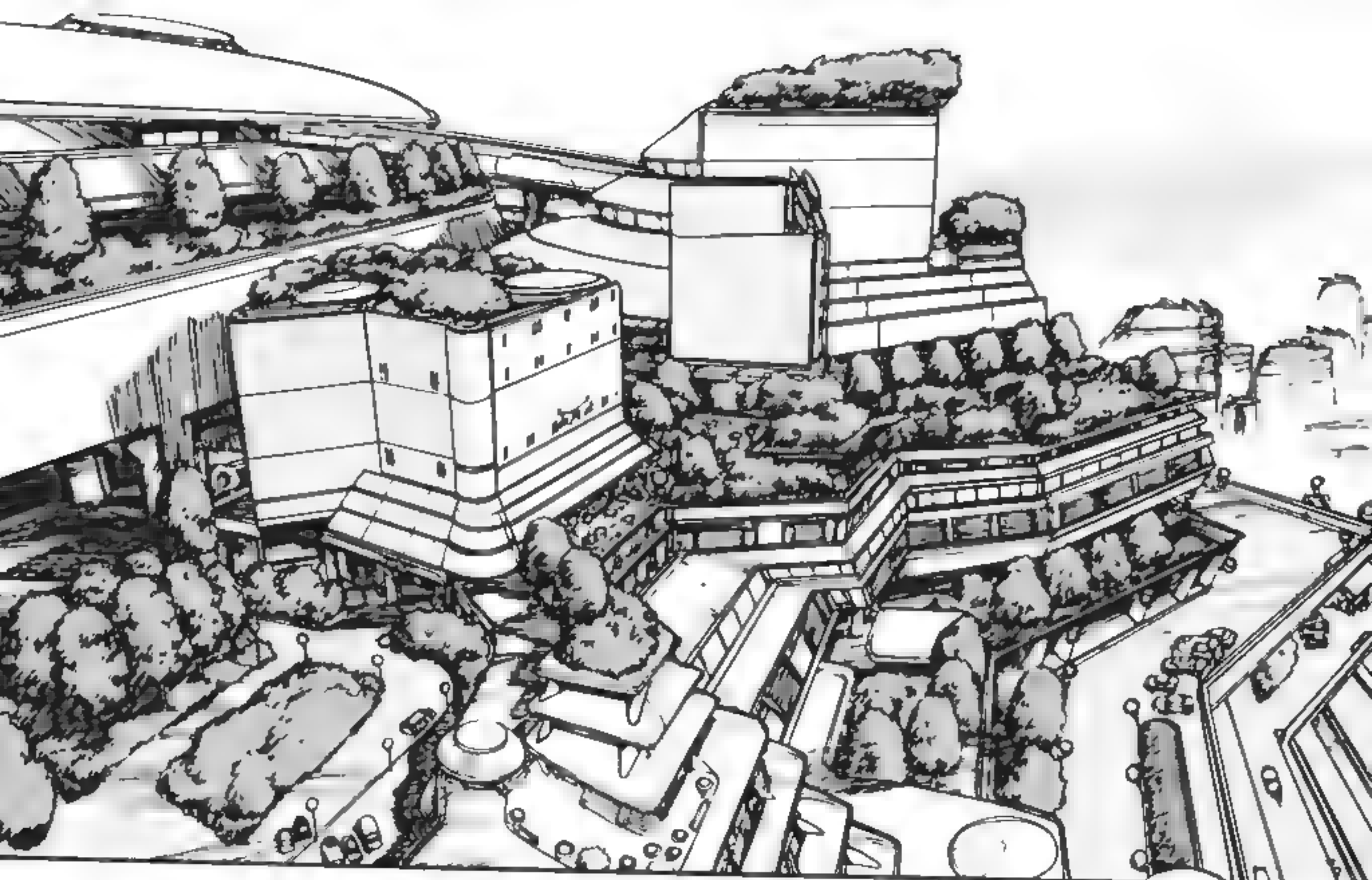


I'LL HAVE  
TO CUT  
OUT EIGHT  
OF YOUR  
ABSORP-  
TION AND  
FILTRATION  
IMPLANTS.

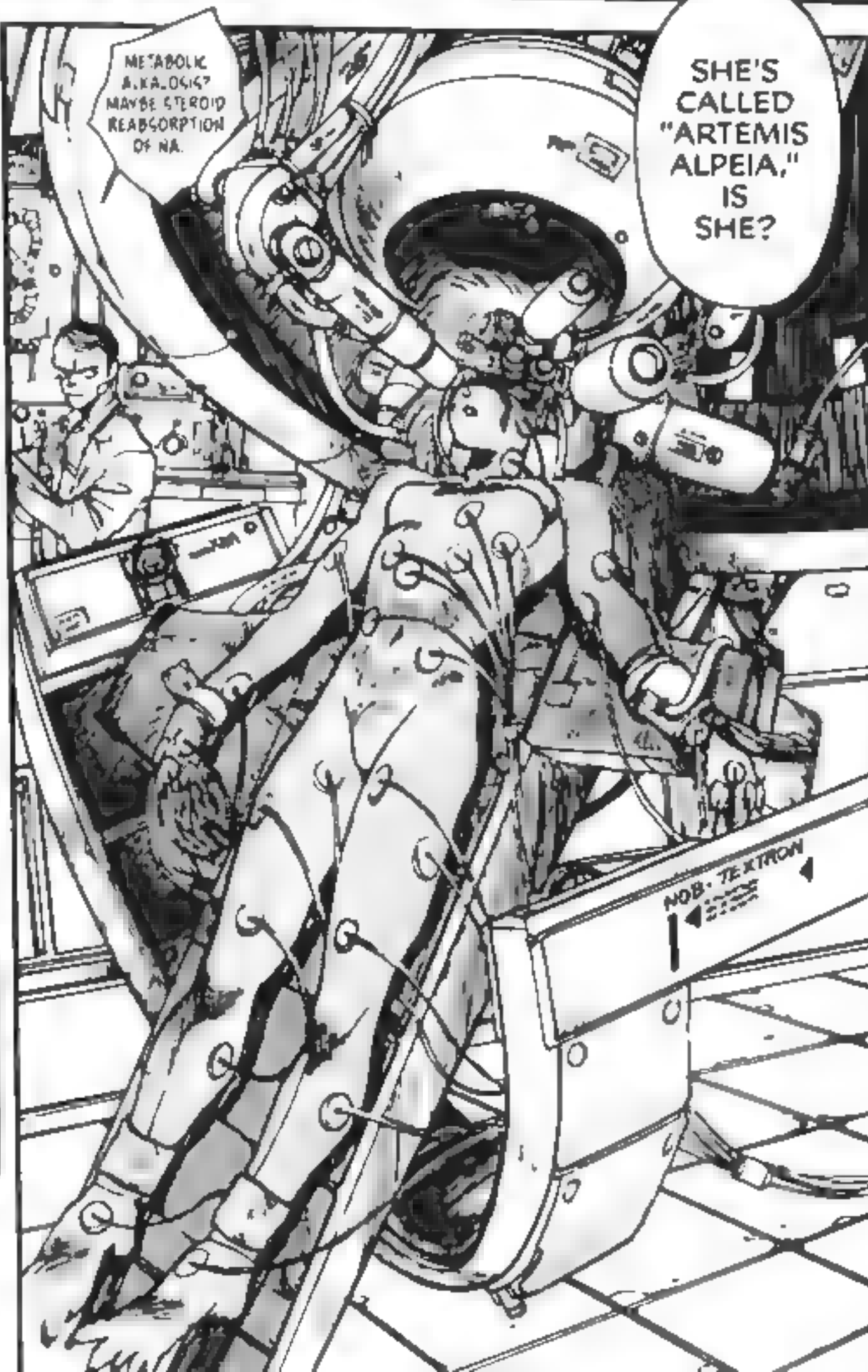
ONCE THE  
SEDATIVES  
TAKE  
EFFECT, I'M  
GOING TO  
CUT INTO  
YOUR UPPER  
FILTRATION  
MEMBRANE  
AND  
DRAIN THE  
POISON.



CAN  
YOU?!



Alpeia was a "white goddess" (c.F. Graves, et al). Also known as Alpina and by many other names







DON'T  
BE AN  
IDIOT.

NEXT TIME  
MAKE HER  
EASIER TO  
CATCH.



JUST HOPE NO  
ONE UPSTAIRS  
STARTS BURYING  
US UNDER  
A PILE OF  
CONTRADICTIONARY  
DIRECTIVES.

THE CODE  
DISTRIBUTION  
MAP IS IN TWENTY-  
EIGHT IMPLANTS.  
THE CONVERSION  
PROCESS USES  
VOICEPRINTS FOR  
A SPECIFIC  
MEMORIZED  
VOCABULARY...  
IT'S GOING TO  
TAKE DAYS TO  
DECODE ALL  
OF THIS.



FANG...

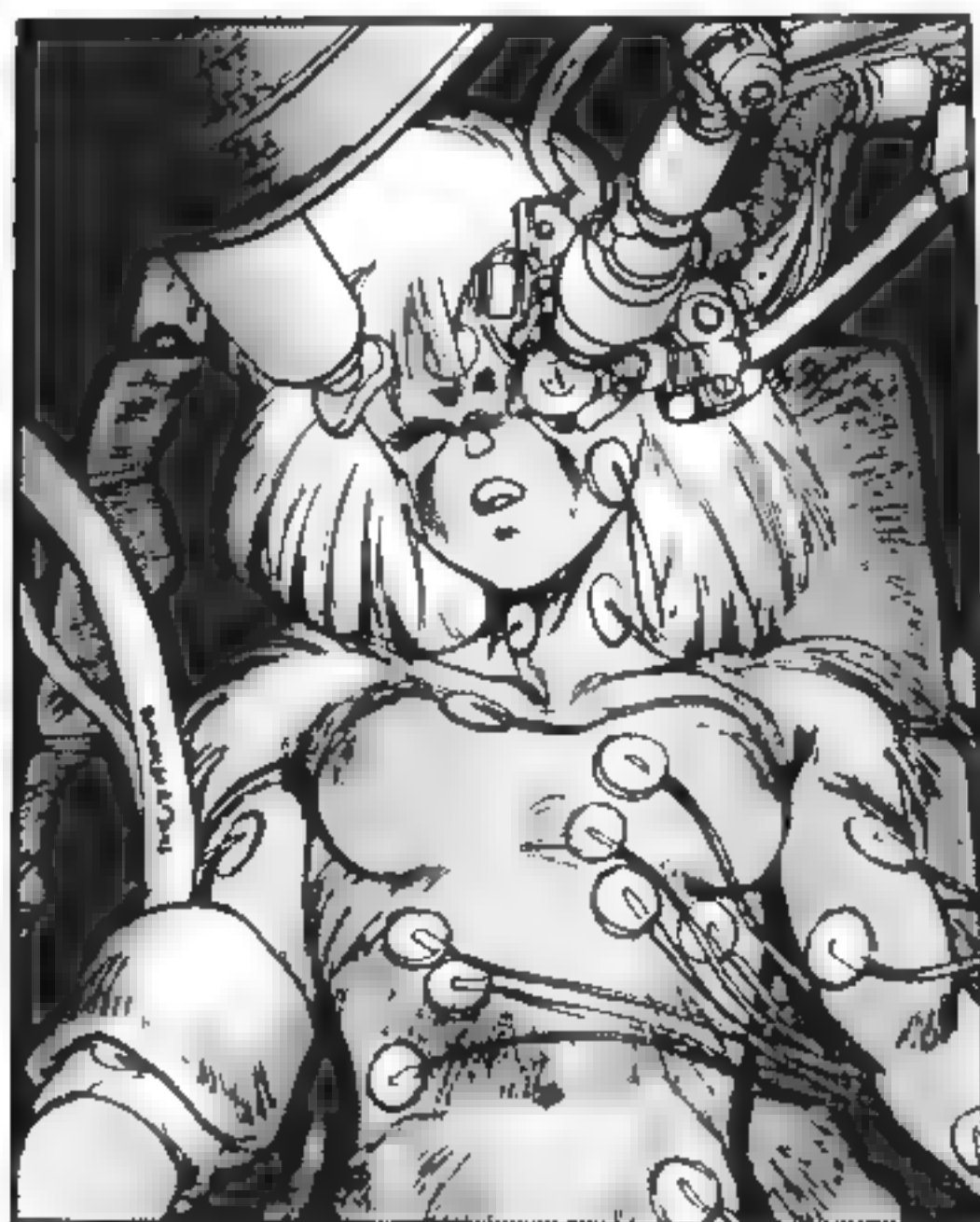
MORE OF  
A SUICIDE,  
WASN'T IT?  
I UNDER-  
STAND THEY  
PAID A HELL  
OF A PILE OF  
COMPENSA-  
TION...



WE  
LOST  
ONE OF  
OUR  
OWN  
BE-  
CAUSE  
OF IT.



SHE WAS  
ONLY ABLE  
TO PROTECT  
THIS DATA  
BECAUSE  
HER COMBAT  
RATING IS SO  
HIGH.

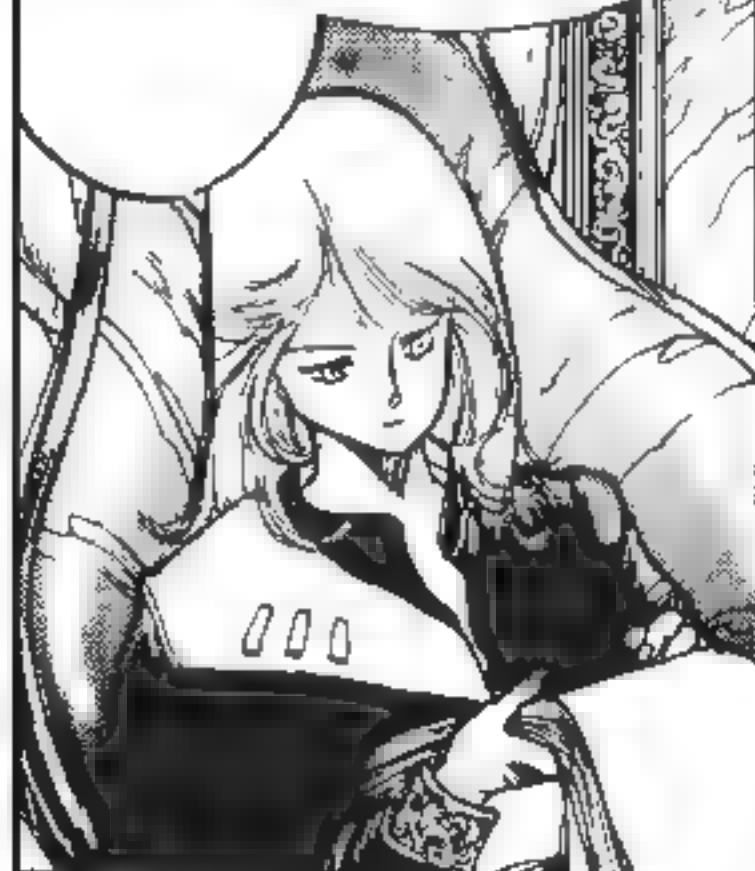


LOOK...  
I'M  
SORRY.  
I DIDN'T  
MEAN IT  
THAT  
WAY...



NO... IT  
DOESN'T  
MATTER.

ZP-O FUSION BETWEEN TWO DIFFERENT SPECIES YIELDS COUNTLESS FAILURES AND TRIAL MODELS FOR EACH SUCCESSFUL UNIT. TO COME UP WITH ONE AS WELL BALANCED AS SHE IS, ASSUMING SHE'S A FAKE, WOULD TAKE A TARTARUS-SIZE INSTALLATION.



PERHAPS FROM POSE DON

WHAT PROOF DO WE HAVE THAT ARTEMIS ISN'T A FAKE?

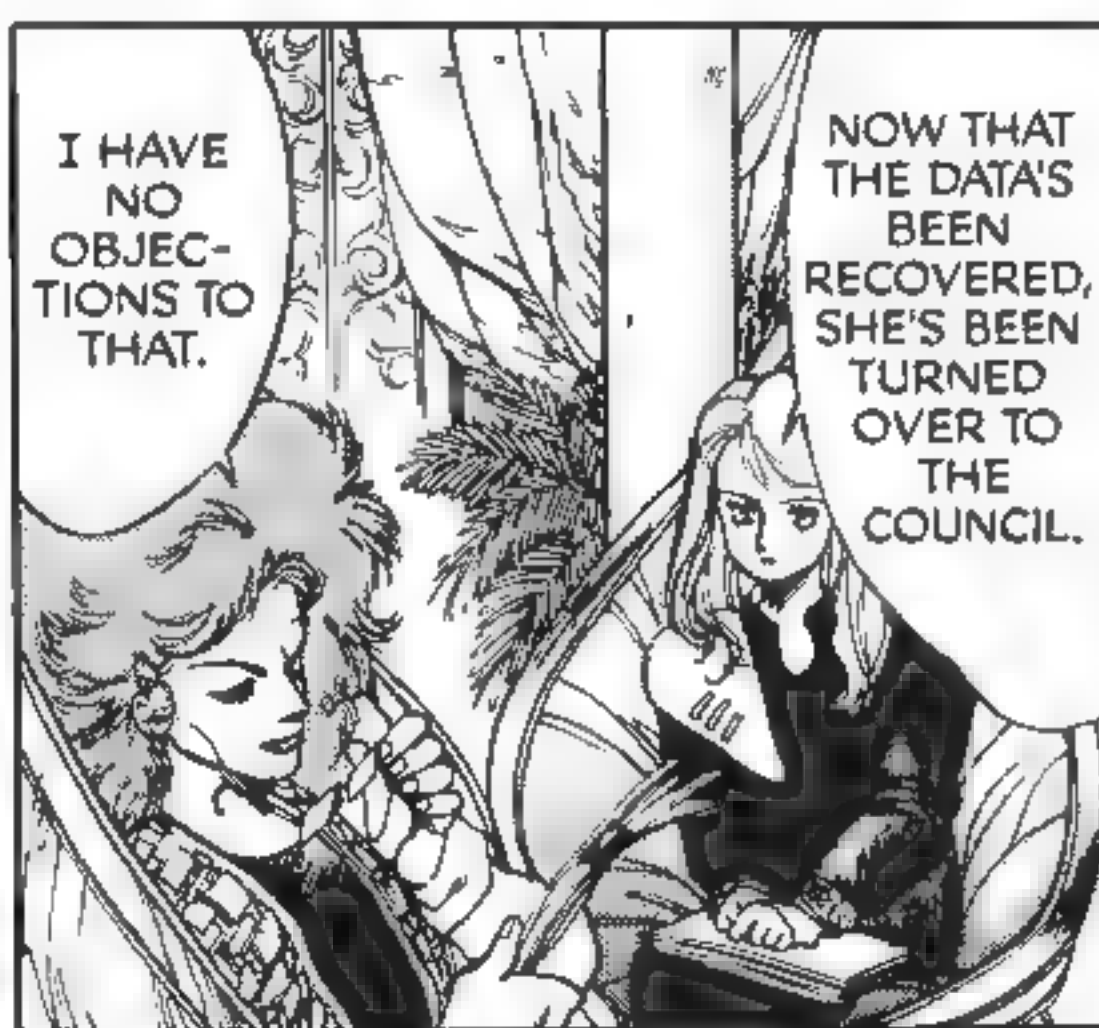


EVEN SO, IT WON'T BE READY BY THE NEXT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE.



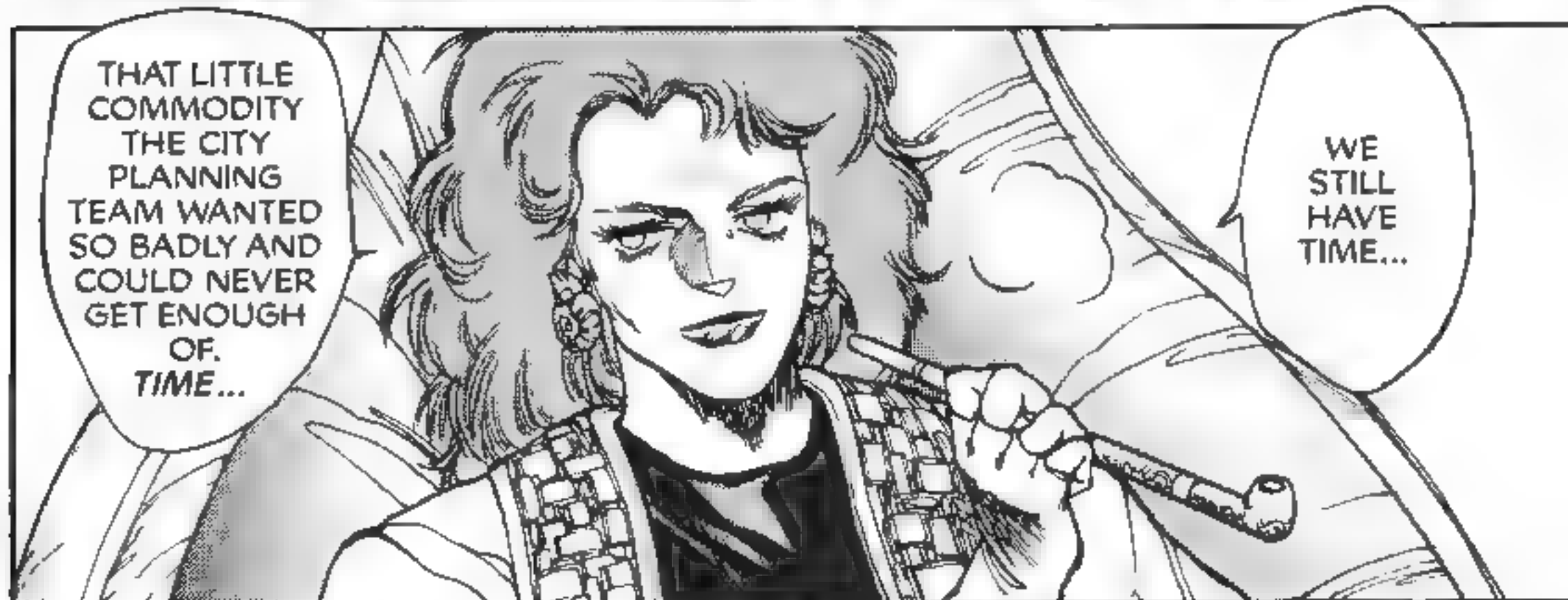
WE'VE ISOLATED ALL OF GAIA'S B-BLOCK CIRCUITS, AND THEY'RE BEING USED EXCLUSIVELY TO DECODE THE DATA.

I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO THAT.



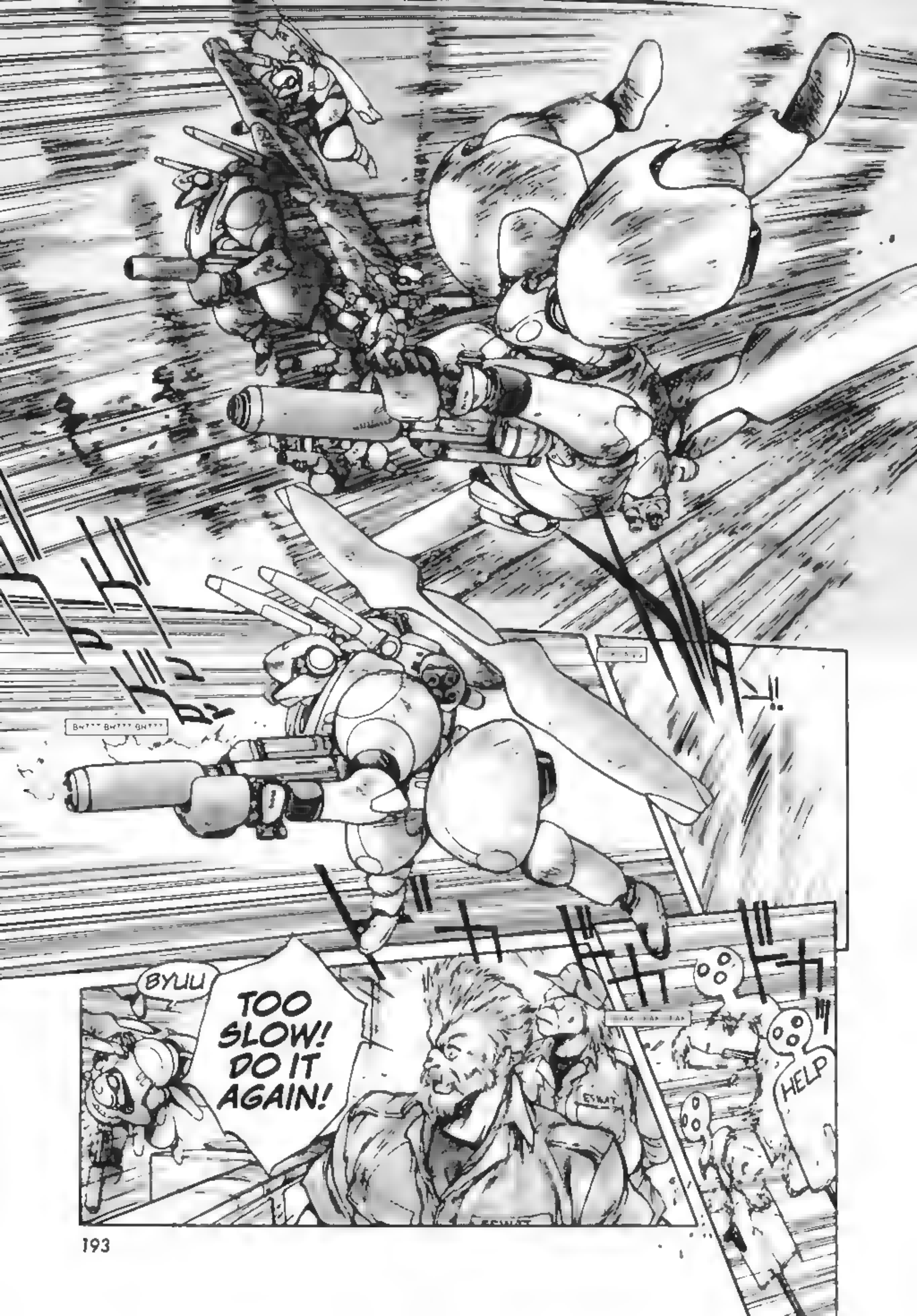
NOW THAT THE DATA'S BEEN RECOVERED, SHE'S BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE COUNCIL.

THAT LITTLE COMMODITY THE CITY PLANNING TEAM WANTED SO BADLY AND COULD NEVER GET ENOUGH OF. TIME...



WE STILL HAVE TIME...





BTWT BTWT BTWT

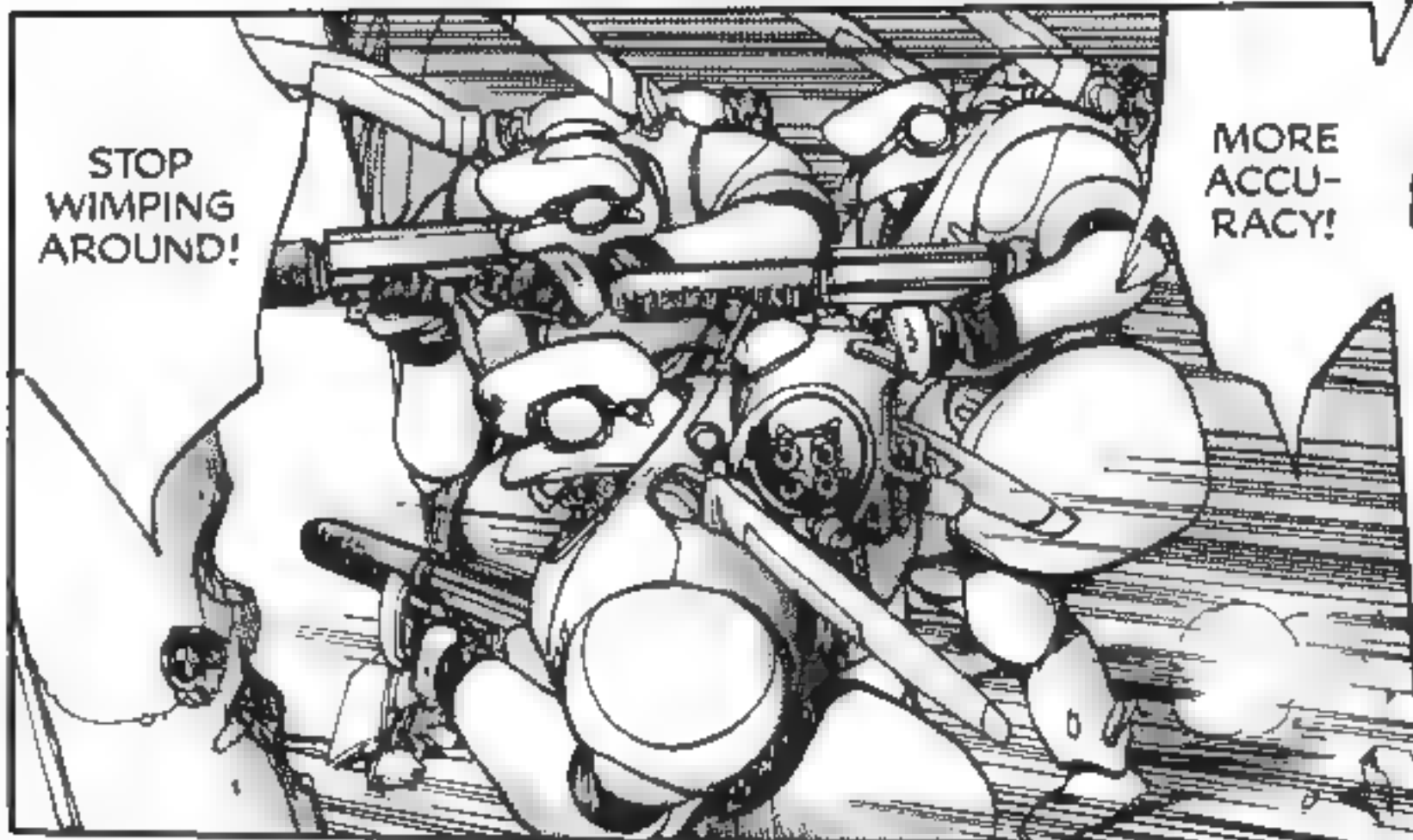
BYUU

TOO  
SLOW!  
DO IT  
AGAIN!

AK FAP FAP

ESWAT

HELP



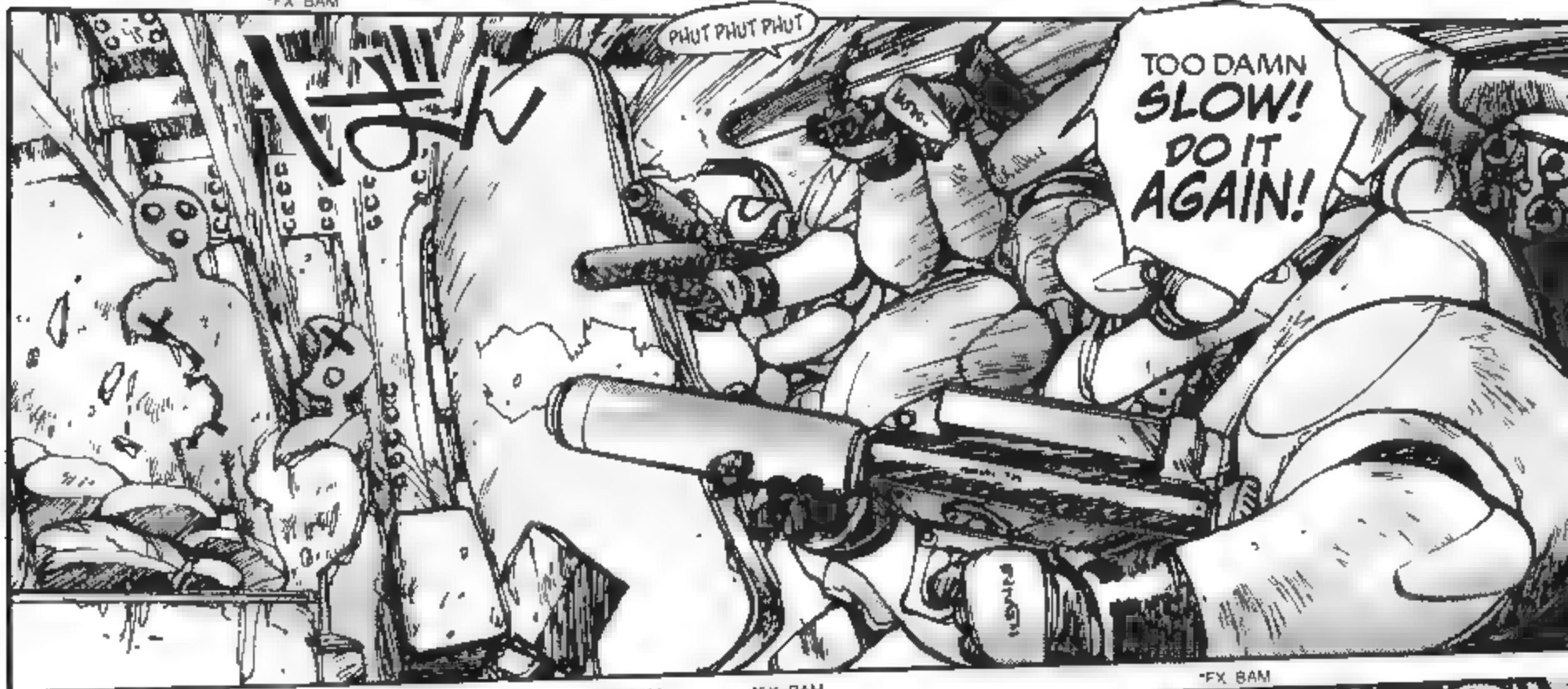
STOP  
WIMPING  
AROUND!

MORE  
ACCU-  
RACY!

**FASTER!**



\*FX BAM



PHUT PHUT PHUT

TOO DAMN  
**SLOW!**  
DO IT  
**AGAIN!**

\*FX BAM

\*FX BAM

\*FX BAM



FROM  
THE  
TOP!

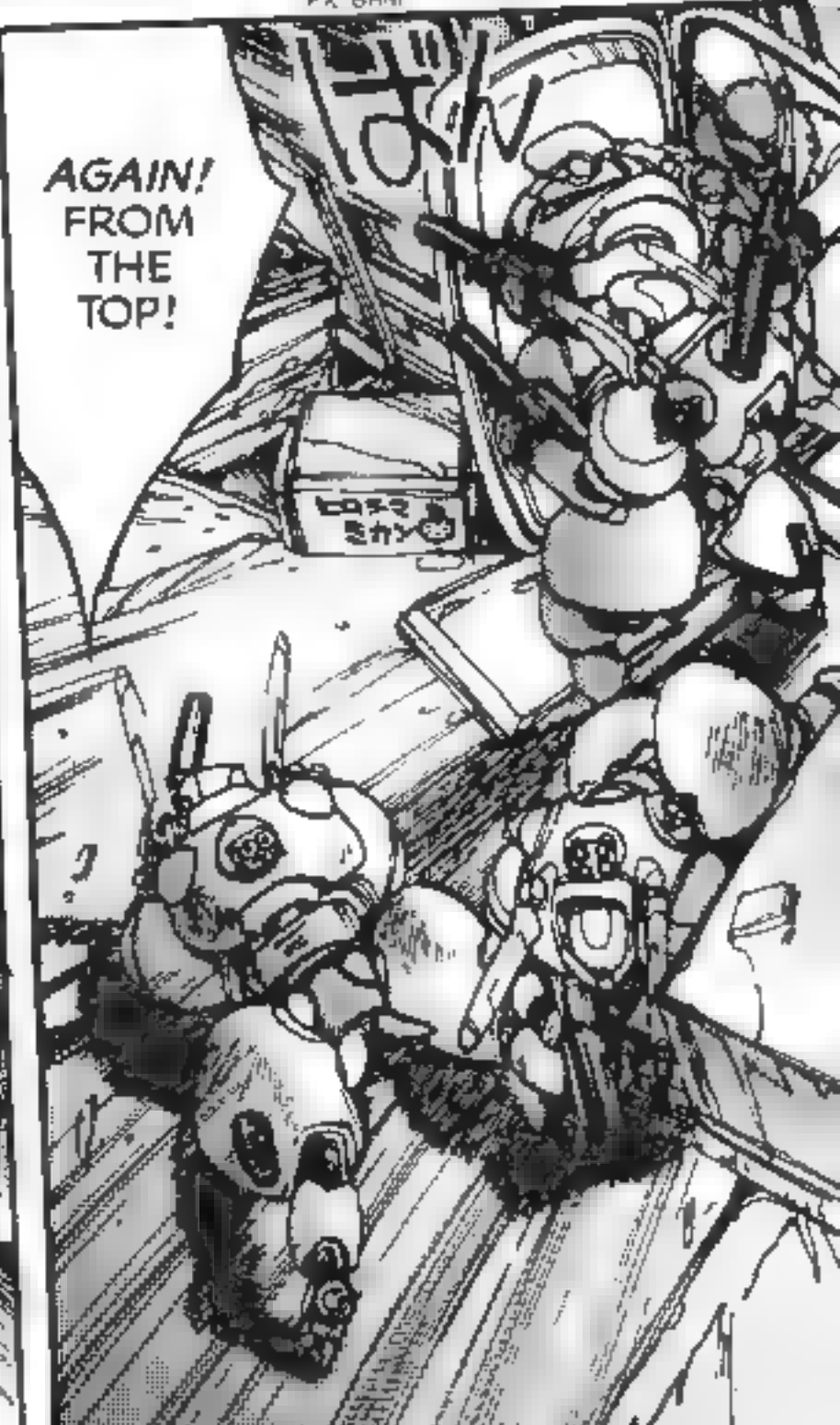
YOU SCUM  
STILL DON'T  
HAVE IT RIGHT!  
IF YOU CAN'T  
HACK IT, GET  
BACK TO  
YOUR  
OLD  
UNIT!



AGAIN!

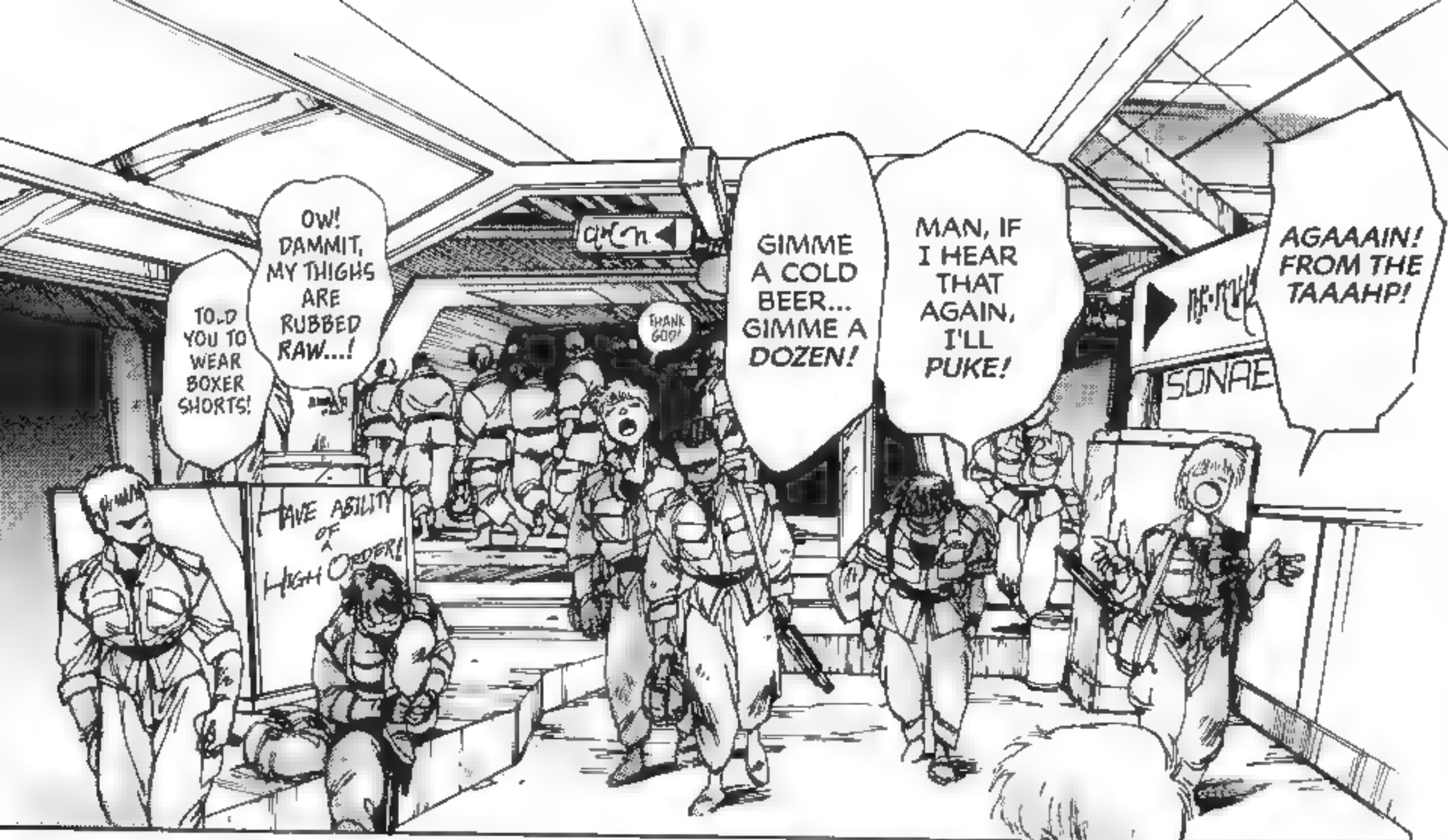


AGAIN!



AGAIN!  
FROM  
THE  
TOP!







...I'M  
JUST  
KILLING  
TIME.

DID I,  
REALLY?  
WELL, IT'S NOT  
LIKE I HAVE  
ANY REAL  
ASSIGN-  
MENTS ANY-  
MORE...

SO YOU'RE  
THE ONE  
WHO BURNED  
OUT THE  
DAMPERS ON  
THE  
GUGES-D?

corin-thian  
KATS



FARE-  
WELL,  
DEUNAN.

NO  
KIDDING?  
WELL,  
I'VE  
GOT TO  
RUN!



OH, I'VE  
GOT SOME  
OTHER  
THINGS  
COOKING.

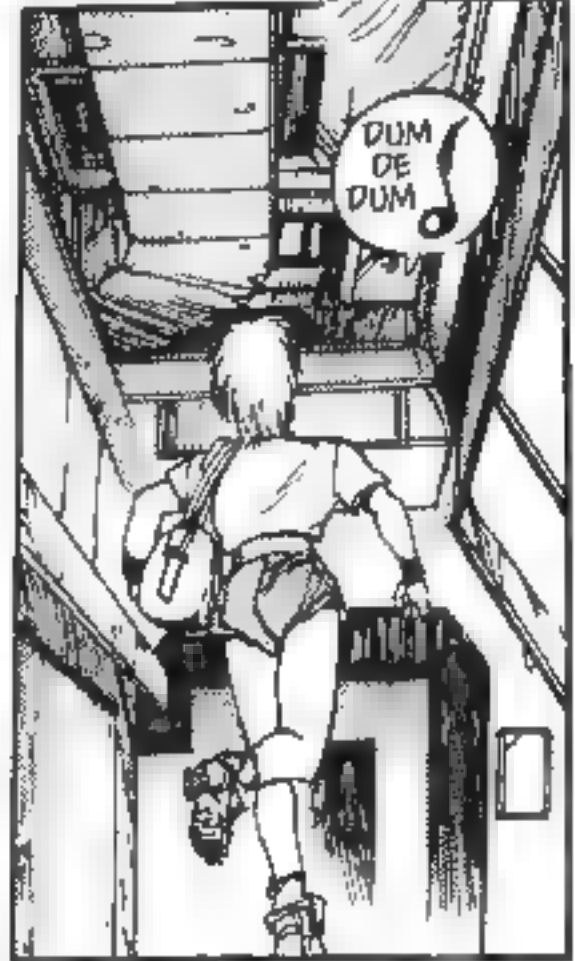
HOW  
ABOUT  
YOUR  
TRAINING,  
DORIC?



TAKE ME  
TO THE  
AIRPORT?



I'LL  
SEND A  
REPORT  
TO BOTH  
MINIS-  
TRIES\*.



DUM  
DE  
DUM!

\*The Ministry of the Interior Security Bureau, on the legislative side (including ESWAT, the CHIRON intelligence bureau, and others) and the FBI international crime unit in the Ministry of Justice on the domestic side





Jamah nrya, the L byan government. Mossad, the Israeli equivalent of the CIA. The Shin Bet is the FBI



THANKS.

YO, THERE,  
LITTLE LADY...  
YOU'RE  
LOOKIN'  
GOOD  
ENOUGH  
TO EAT  
ALIVE!

\*FX HAHHA



THANKS,  
BUT  
NO  
THANKS!

IDIOT!

LOOK, I'VE GOT A  
LITTLE SOMETHING  
THAT REALLY  
TOUCHES OFF A  
CYBORG. SYSTEM-  
ATICALLY BENIGN  
AND DIRT CHEAP!  
JUST \$150 FOR  
FIVE CC'S...

FX BLEAH



Fool with  
yourself !!

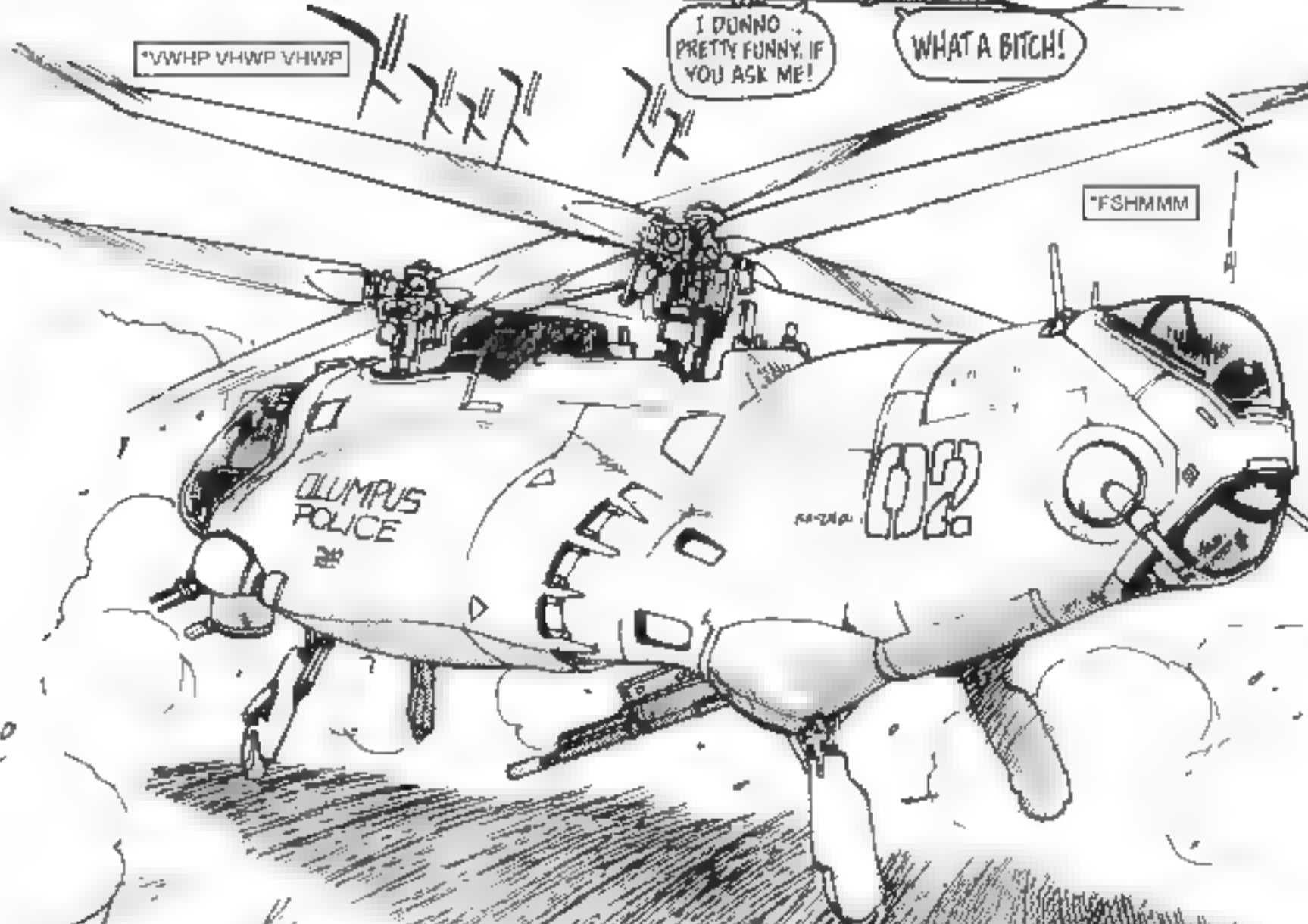
YOU'LL  
WANT IT  
LATER...!  
WAIT! A  
BARGAIN AT  
\$135!

\*VWHP VWHP VWHP

I DUNNO  
PRETTY FUNNY, IF  
YOU ASK ME!

WHAT A BITCH!

\*FSHMMM

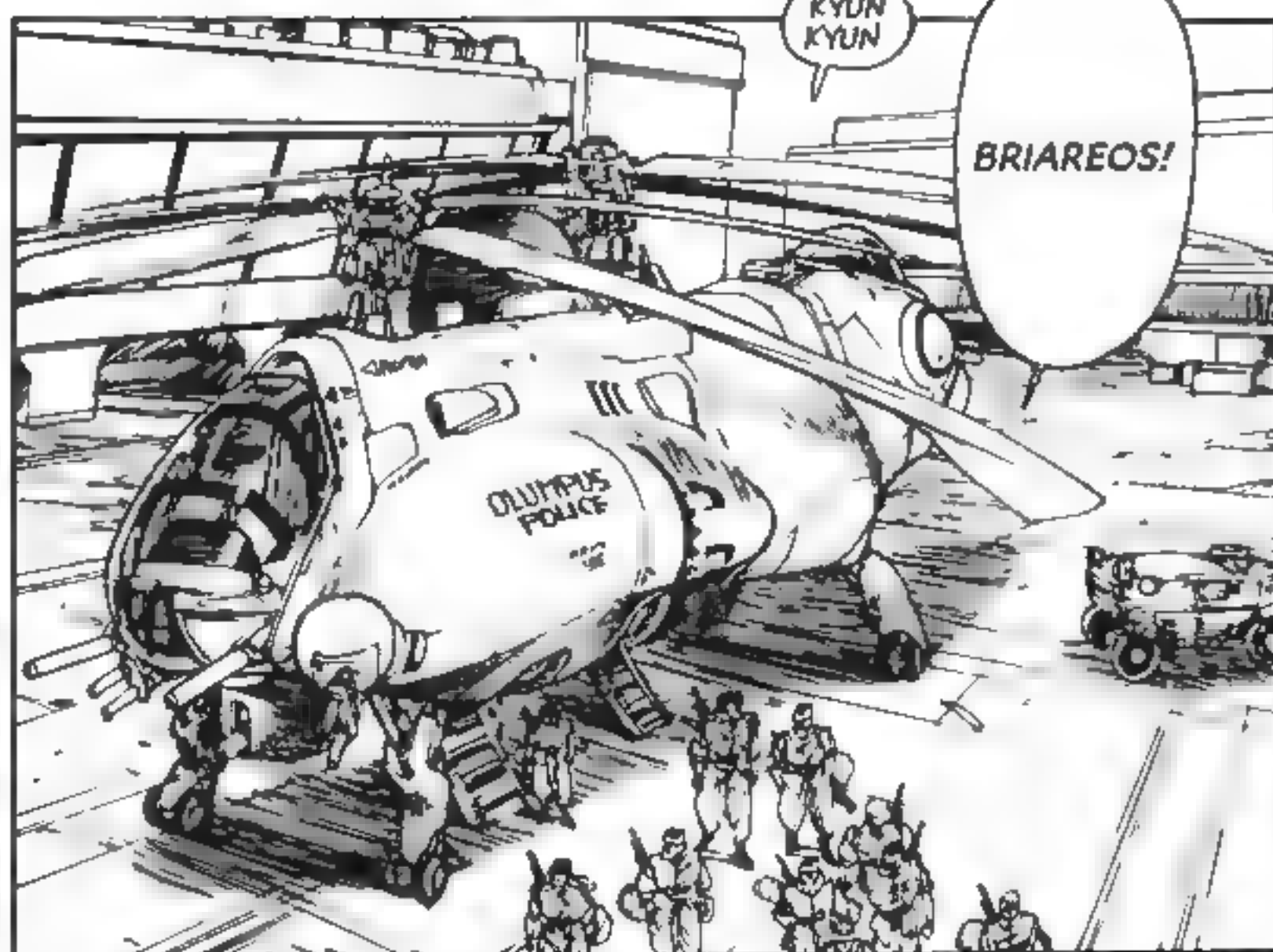






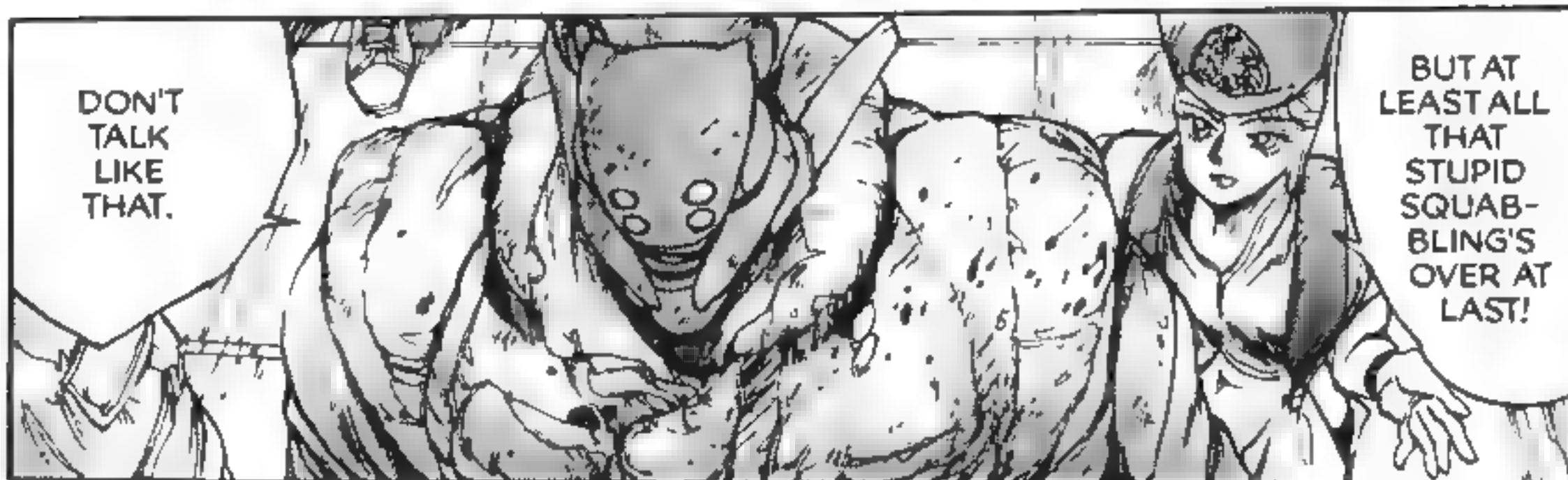
WORST  
EVER.

HOW  
WERE  
THE  
RIOTS?



KYUN  
KYUN

BRIAREOS!



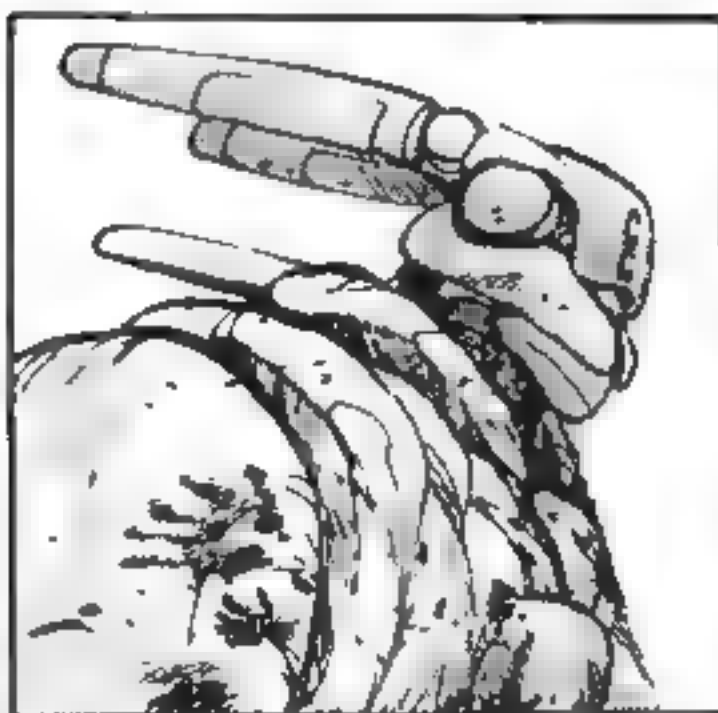
DON'T  
TALK  
LIKE  
THAT.

BUT AT  
LEAST ALL  
THAT  
STUPID  
SQUAB-  
BLING'S  
OVER AT  
LAST!



...BUT THEY  
WERE EVEN  
CONFISCAT-  
ING ROBOT  
LIMBS  
FROM  
HANDI-  
CAPPED  
PEOPLE!

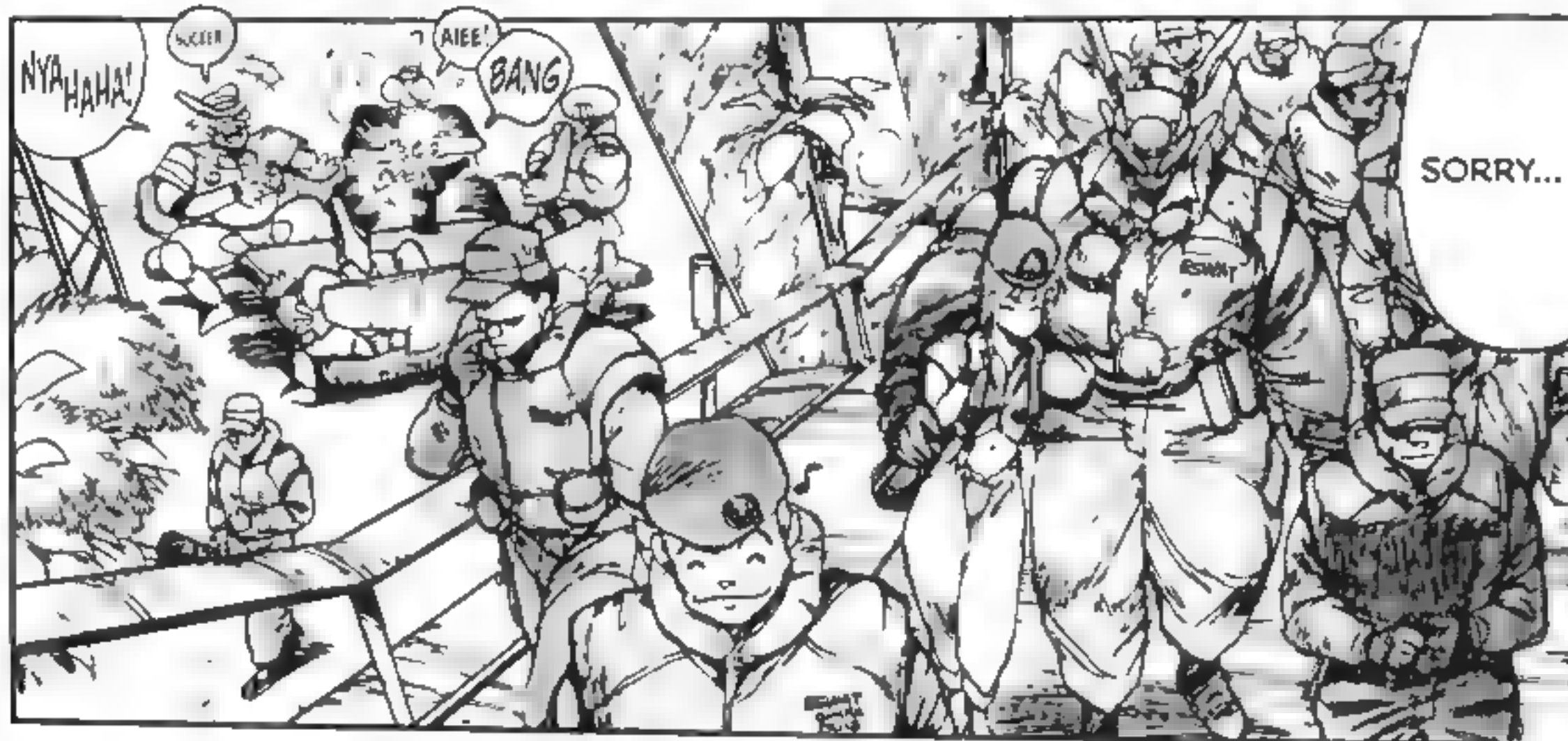
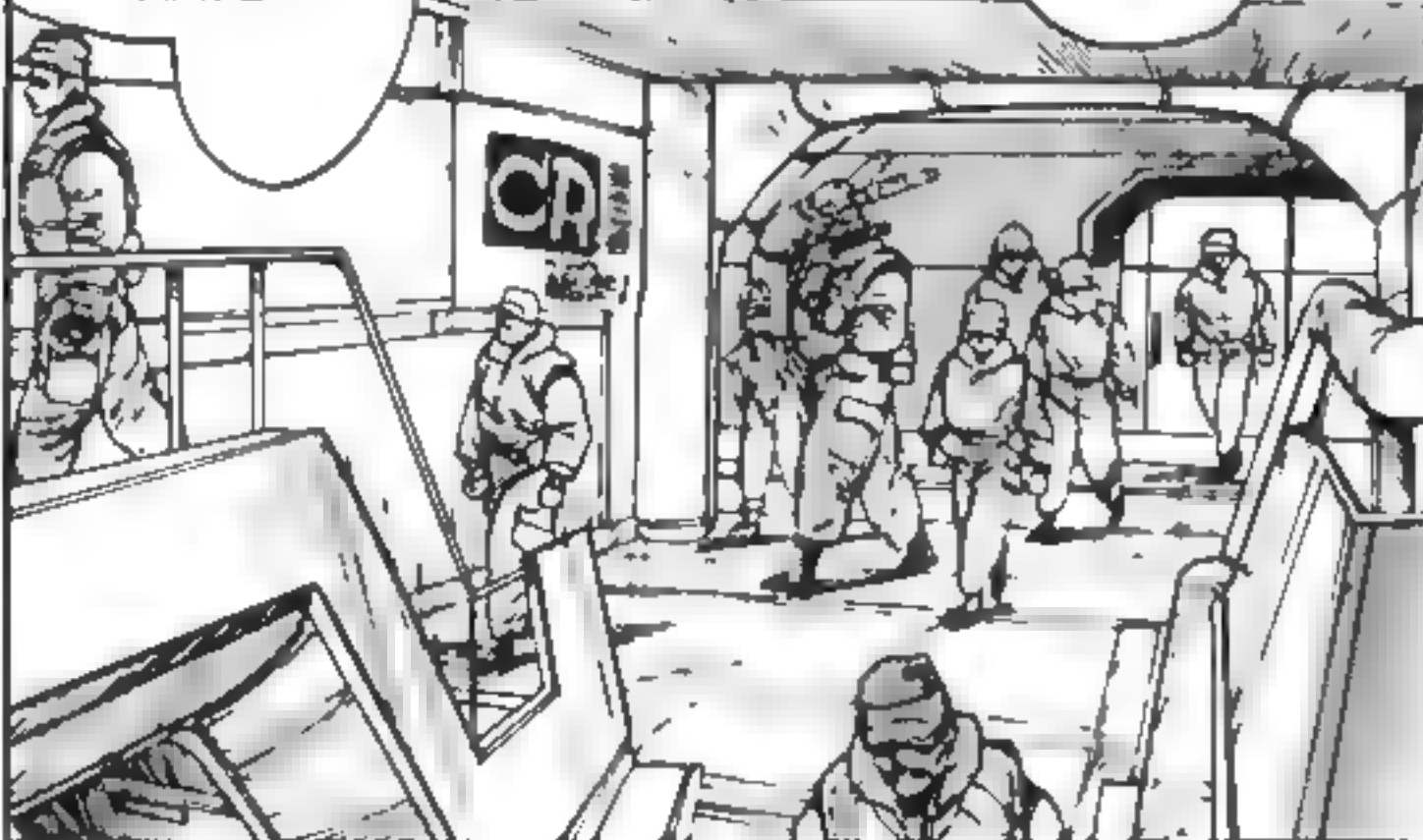
I CAN  
UNDERSTAND  
RESTRICTING  
MAINTENANCE  
TECHNOLOGY TO  
KEEP THE REBELS  
FROM HIRING  
CYBORG  
MERCENARIES...





THE BARUKI STICK  
THEIR OAR IN,  
POSEIDON SELLS  
WEAPONS TO  
WHOEVER PAYS...  
IF THEY'D BROUGHT  
IN NEUTRAL  
NEGOTIATORS  
SOONER,  
MAYBE IT  
WOULDN'T  
HAVE--

I COULDN'T CARE  
LESS ABOUT THE  
SIKH AUTONOMOUS  
REPUBLIC OR THEIR  
DAMN WARS OF  
"INDEPENDENCE"...  
BUT TO STAMP  
THE DIGNITY OUT  
OF HARMLESS  
CIVILIANS LIKE  
THAT...

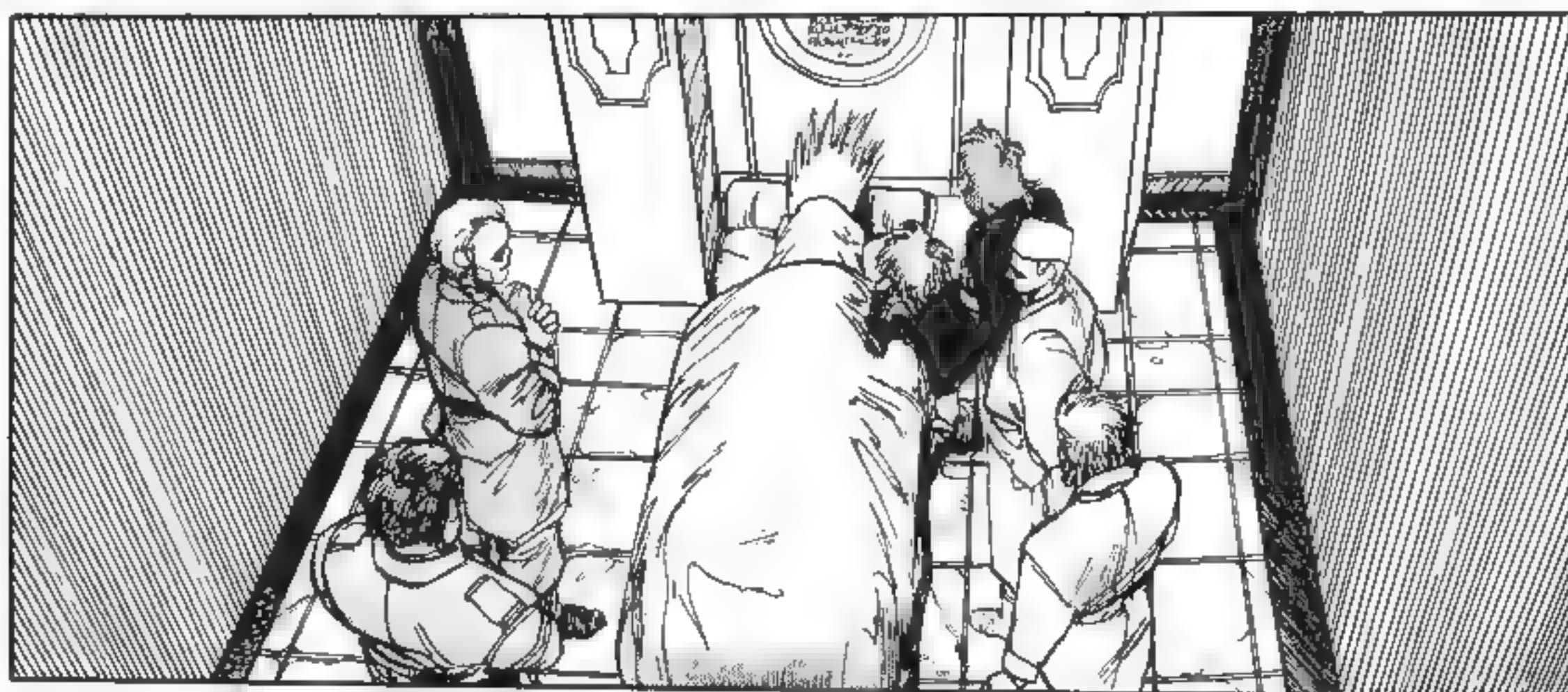
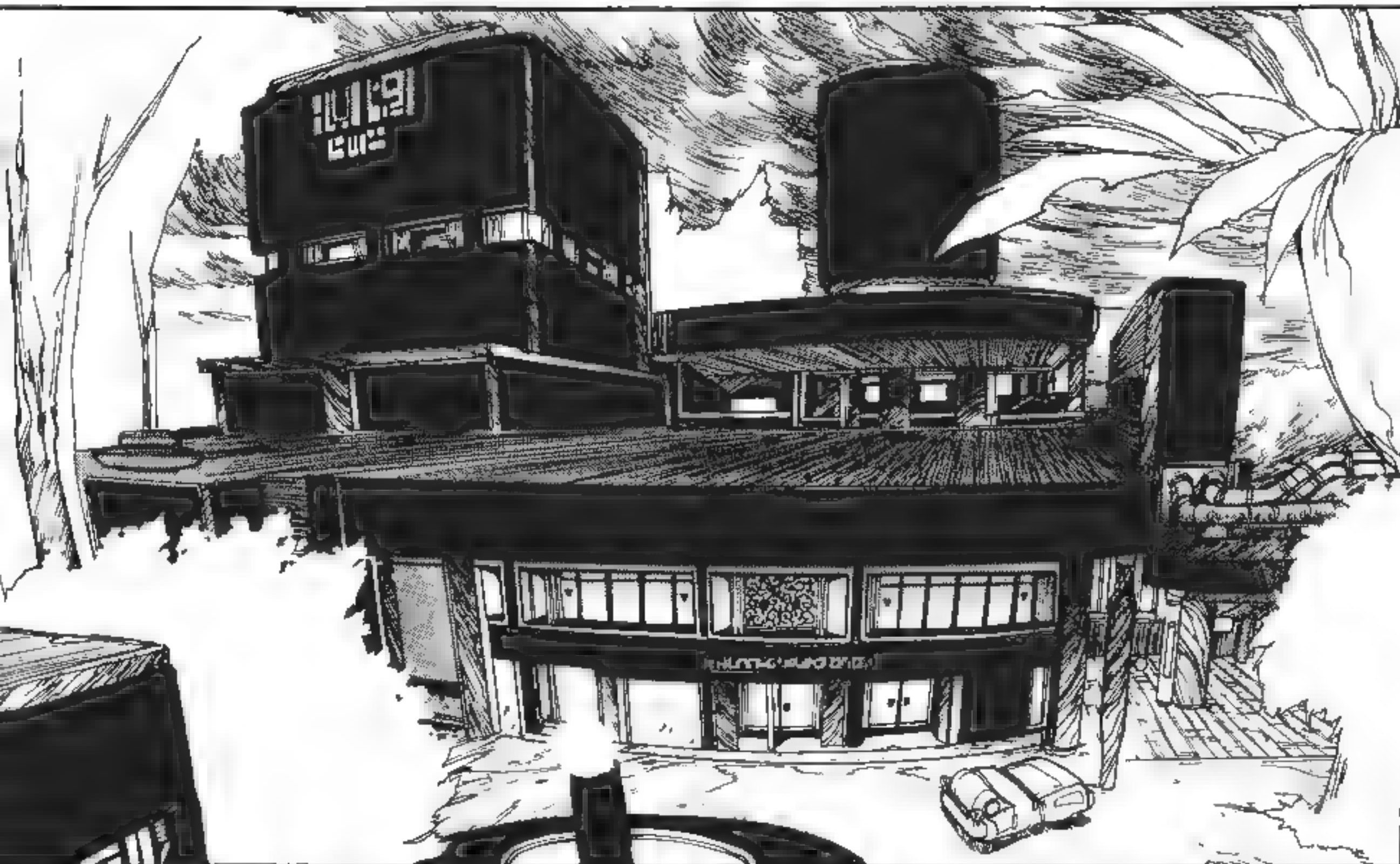


JUST LET  
ME GET  
CLEANED  
UP...GET  
THIS CRAP  
OFF ME.



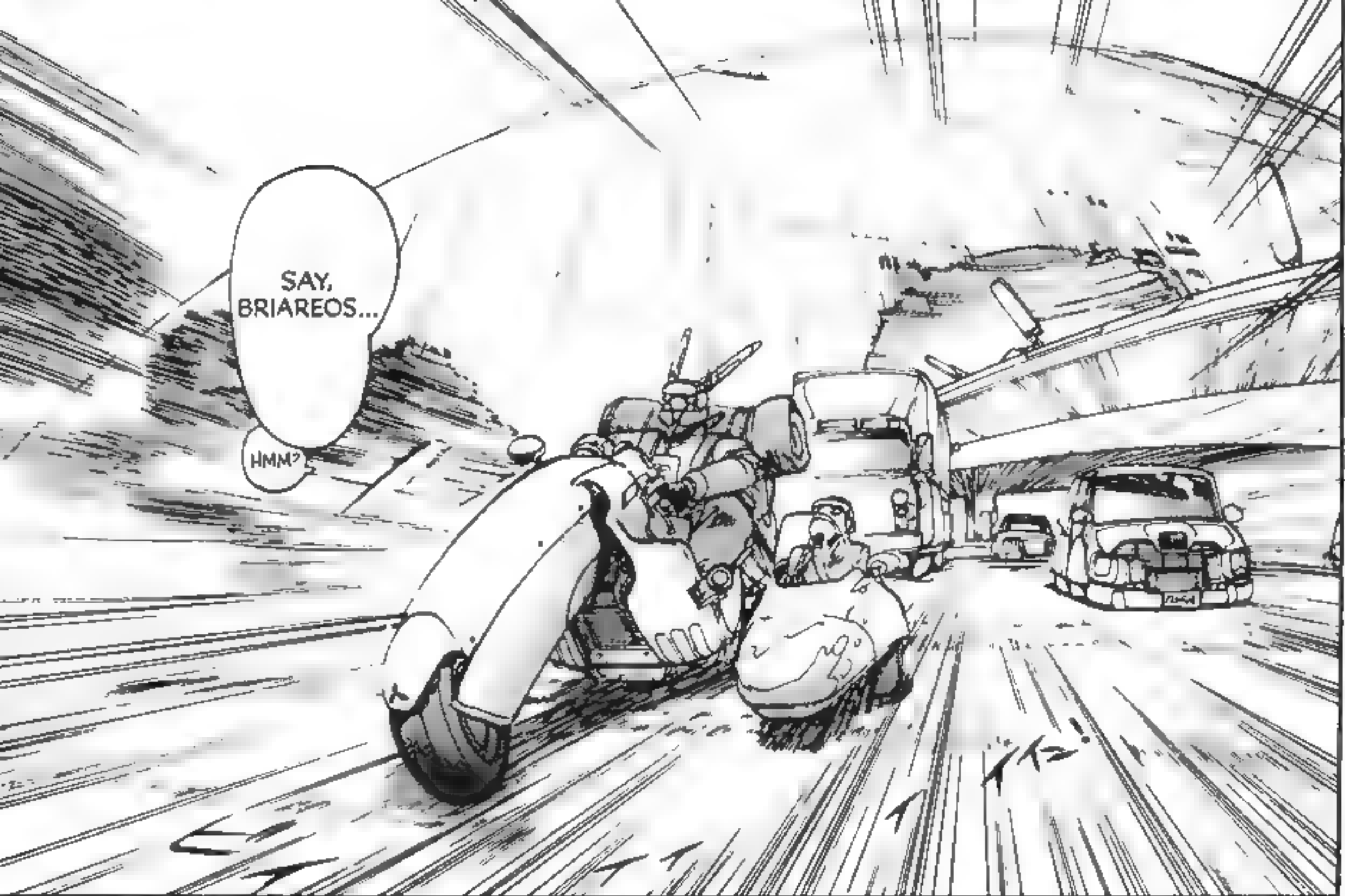
I'M JUST A  
LITTLE TIRED,  
THAT'S ALL.  
WE HAVEN'T  
HAD A BREAK  
IN AGES.











\*FX VEEREN

\*FX VEERN



...I JUST CAN'T TRUST ESWAT.

WELL...

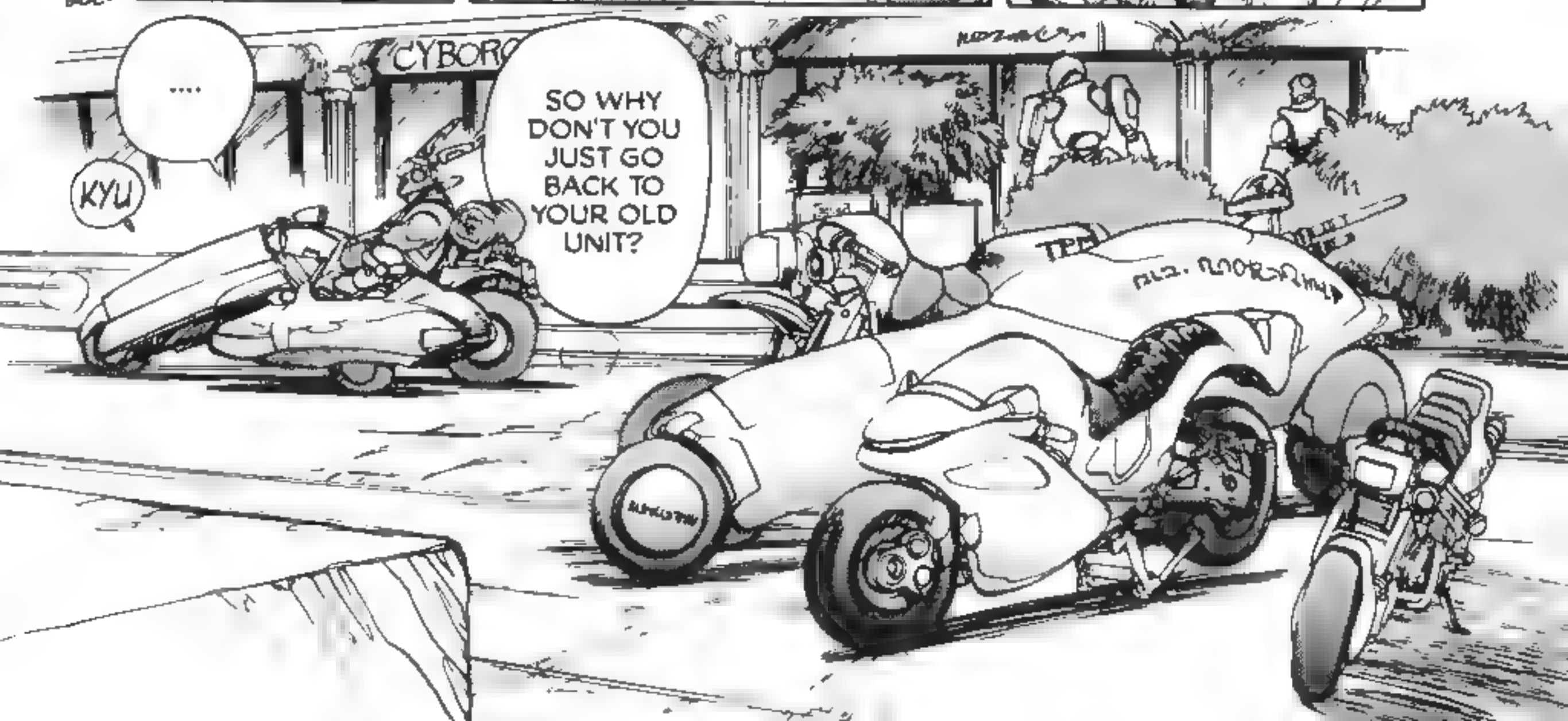


YOUR ABILITIES HAVE BEEN DROPPING STEADILY EVER SINCE WE GOT HERE. WHAT'S GOING ON?

WELL, I'D BEEN MEANING TO BRING IT UP SOME-TIME...



YOU DON'T THINK I'M JUST... JUST DEAD WEIGHT, DO YOU?



KYU

SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO BACK TO YOUR OLD UNIT?



..BUT  
SOMETIMES  
I DO THINK  
IT WOULD  
BE BETTER  
ALL  
AROUND.

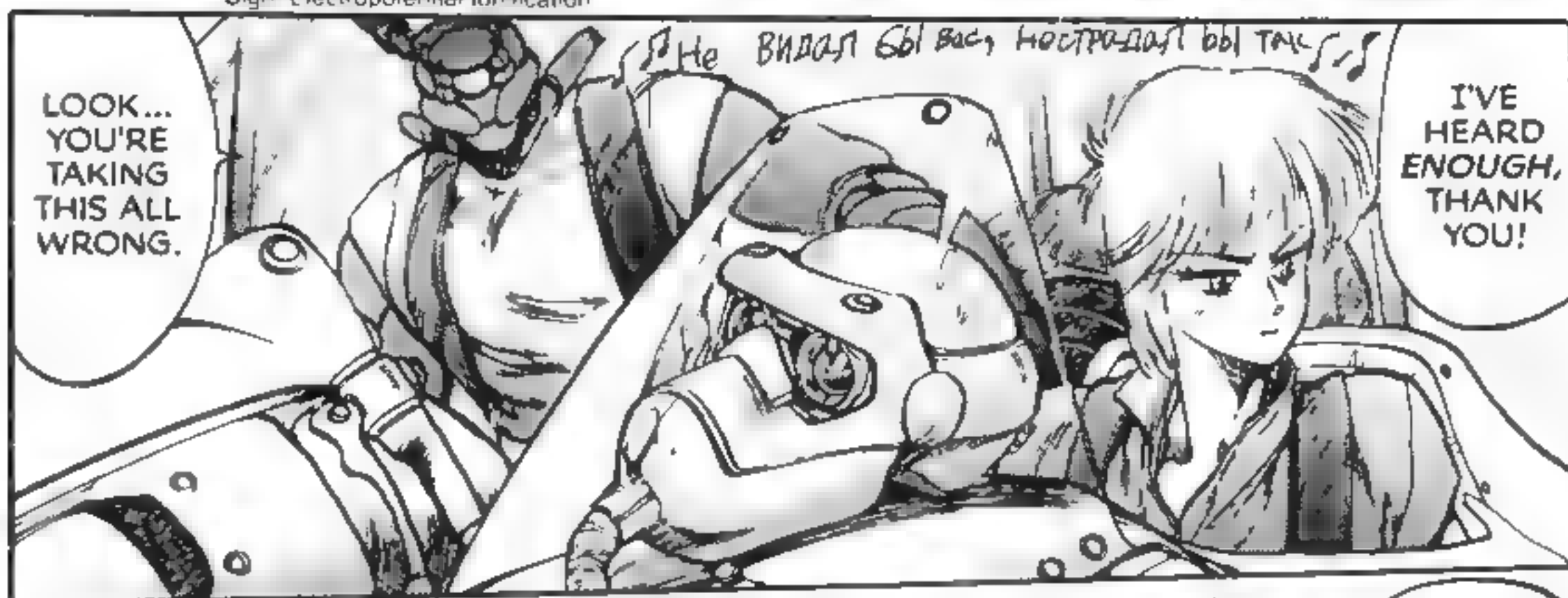
NOTHING  
OF THE  
SORT...



DO YOU  
EXPECT ME  
TO JUST SIT  
AT HOME  
LIKE A  
LUMP AND  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
YOU?!

PSHT

Sign: Electropotential Ion fication



LOOK...  
YOU'RE  
TAKING  
THIS ALL  
WRONG.

He ВИДАЛ 661 ВОС, НОСТРО-ДАСТ 661 ТАК

I'VE  
HEARD  
ENOUGH,  
THANK  
YOU!



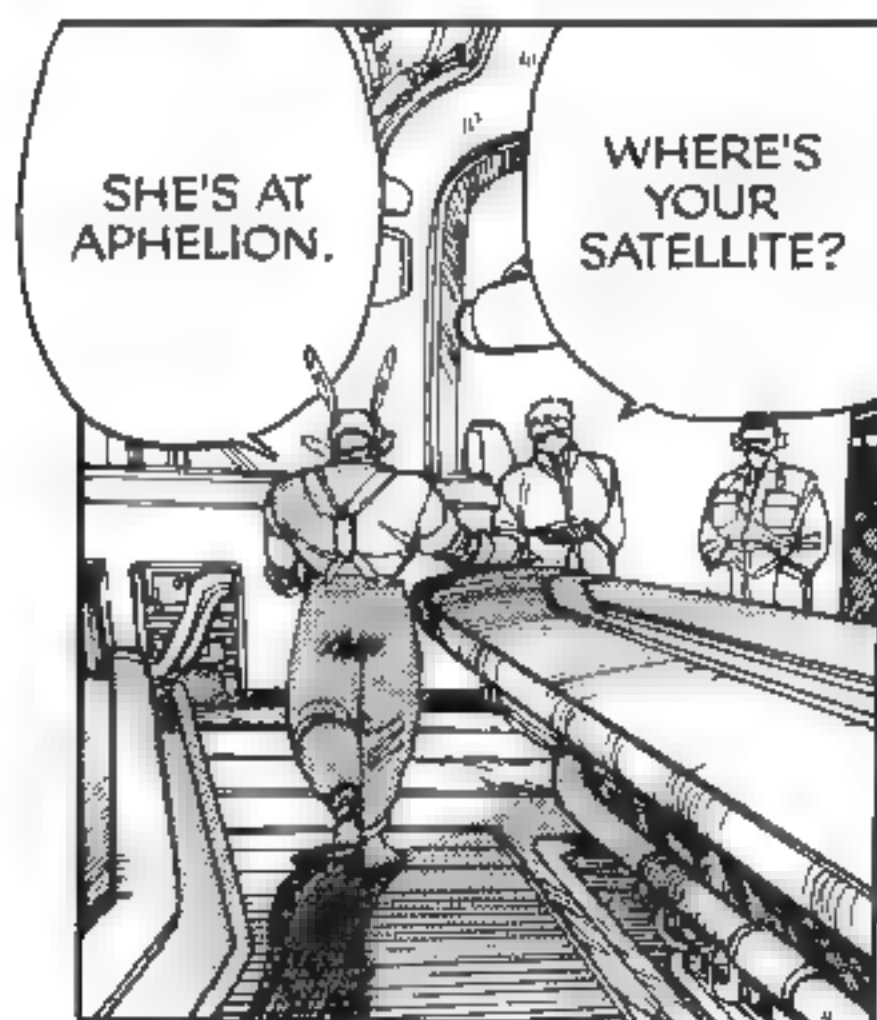
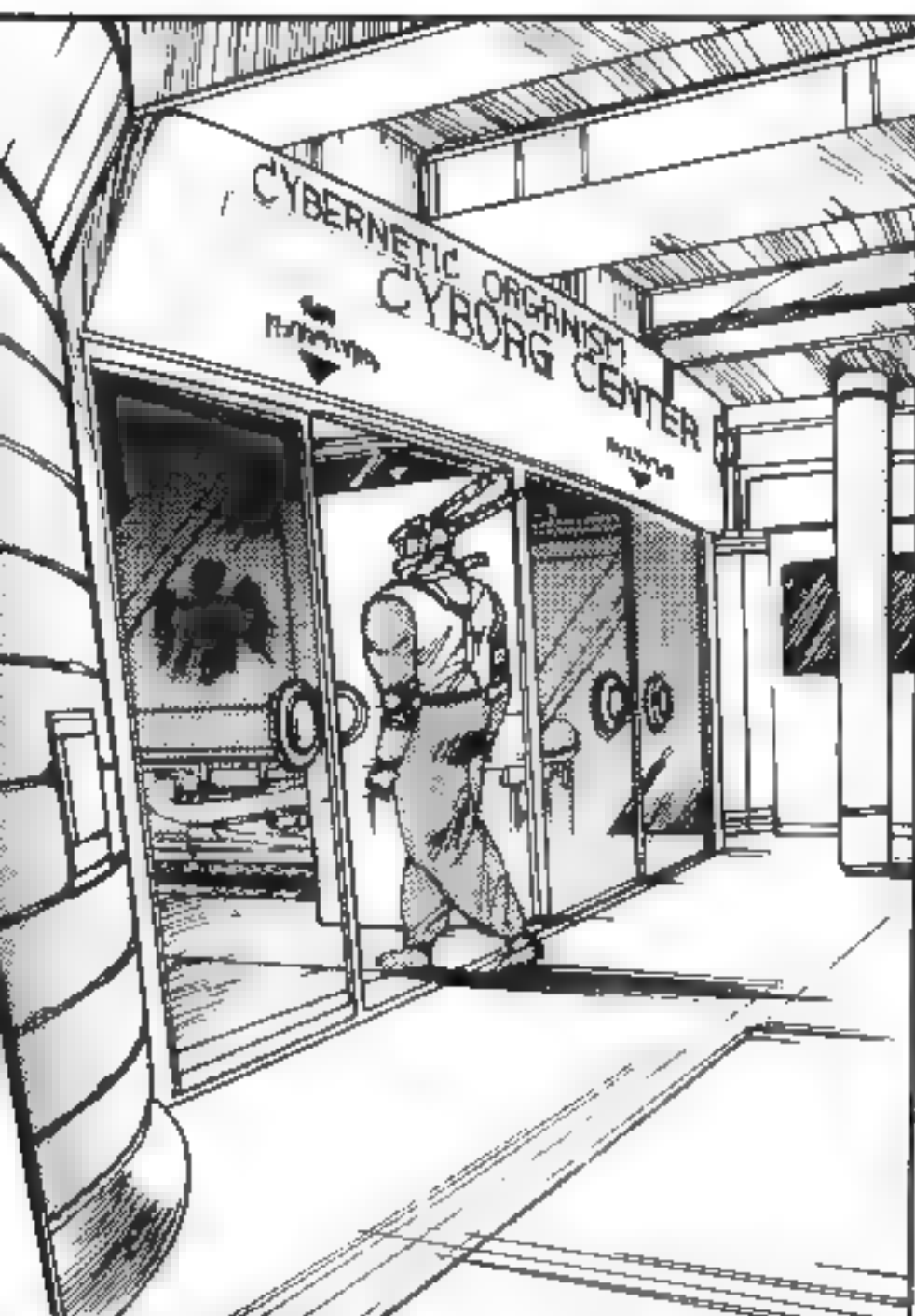
WHERE IS  
THE OLD  
FIGHTING  
MACHINE  
SLEEPING...?

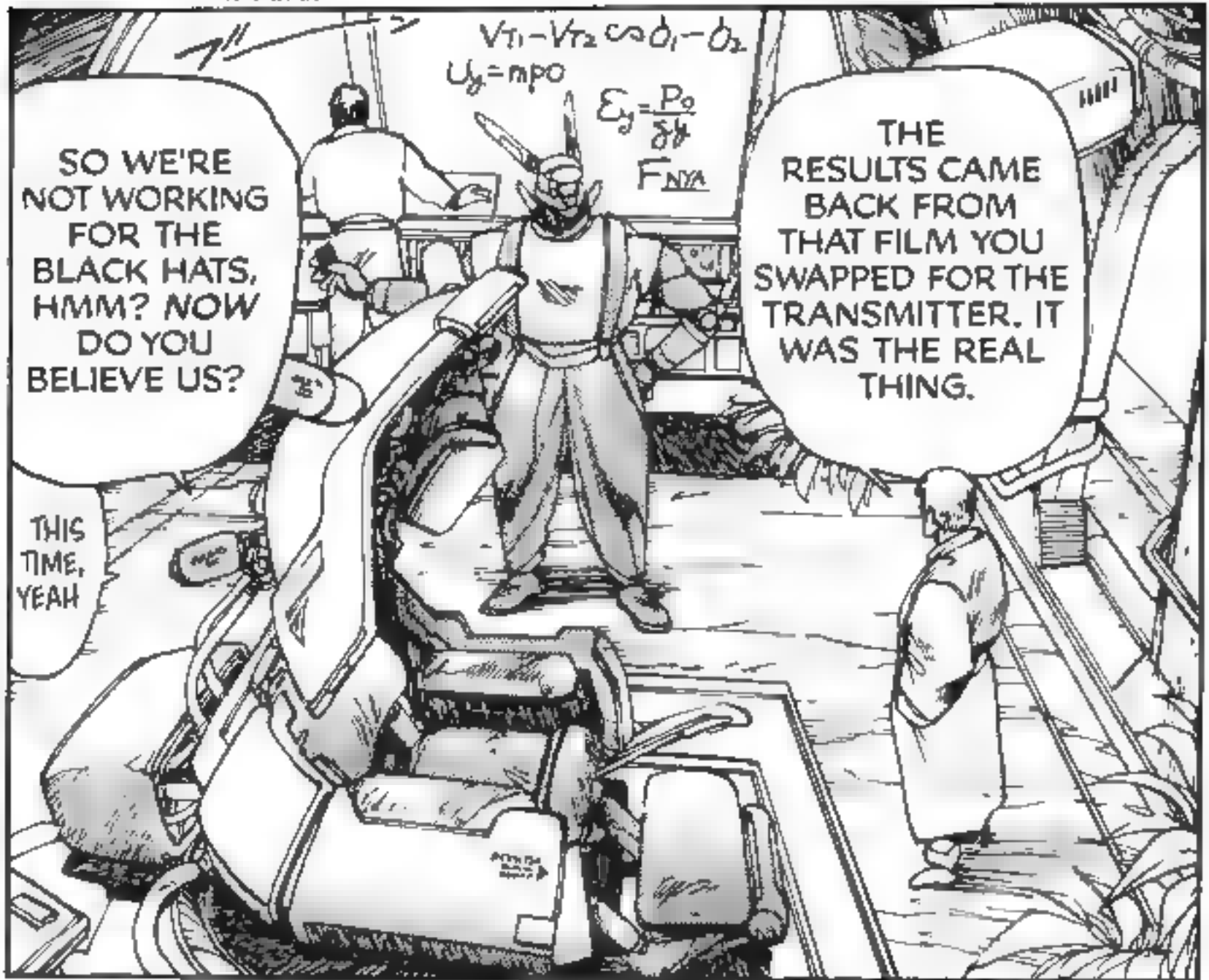


I'M NOT  
GOING TO  
ORDER YOU  
TO TRUST  
THEM. BUT  
REMEMBER  
FIRST YOU  
HAVE TO  
BE TRUST-  
WORTHY.

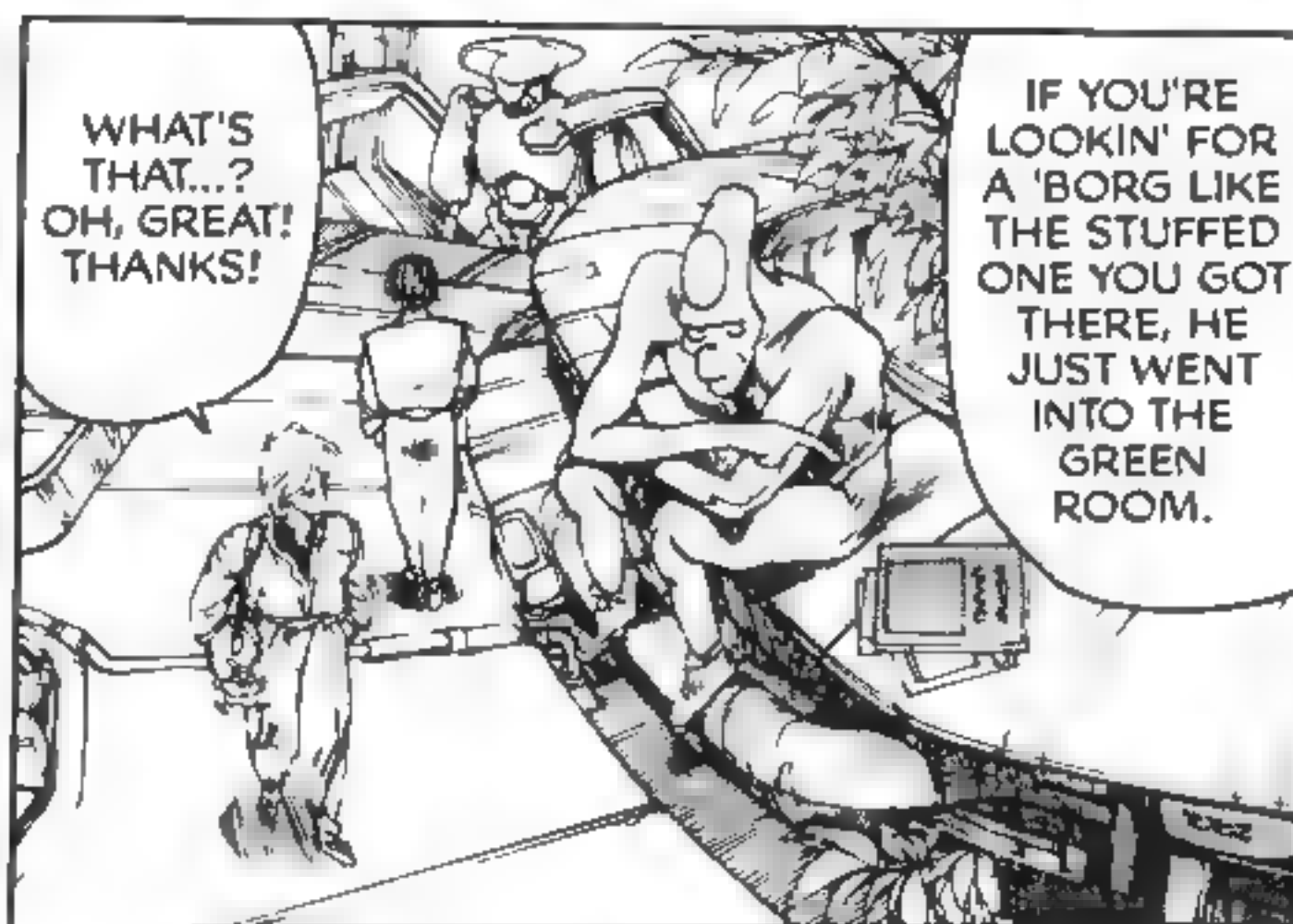
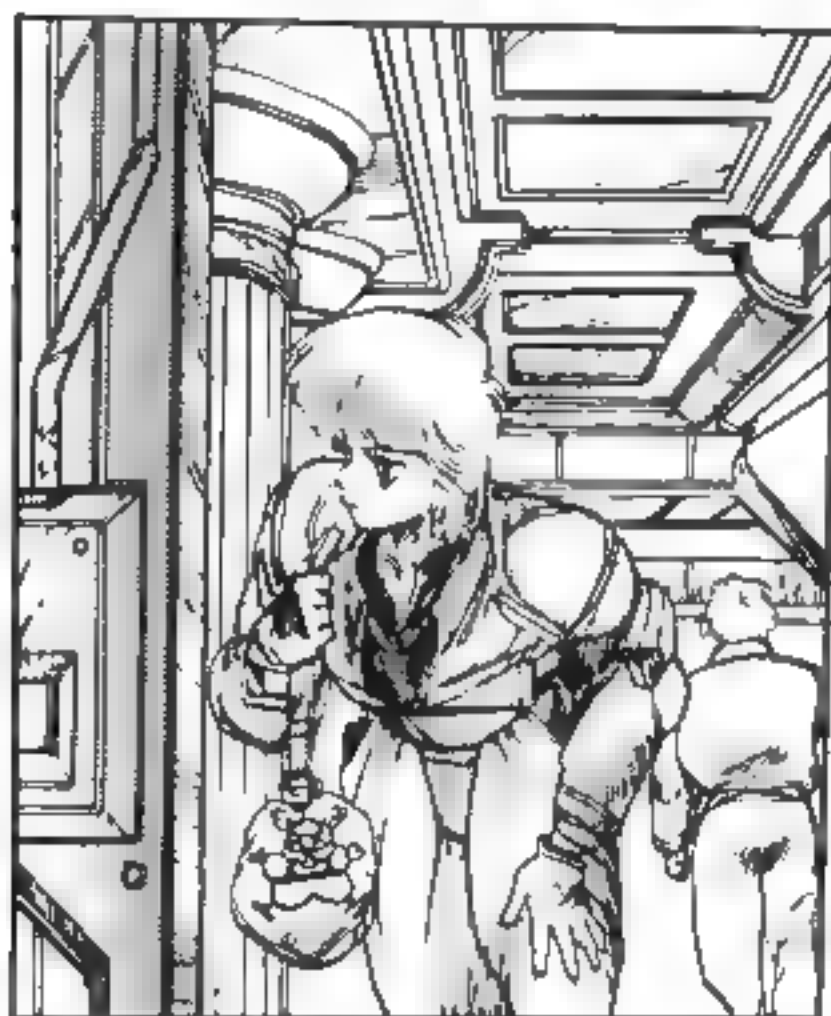
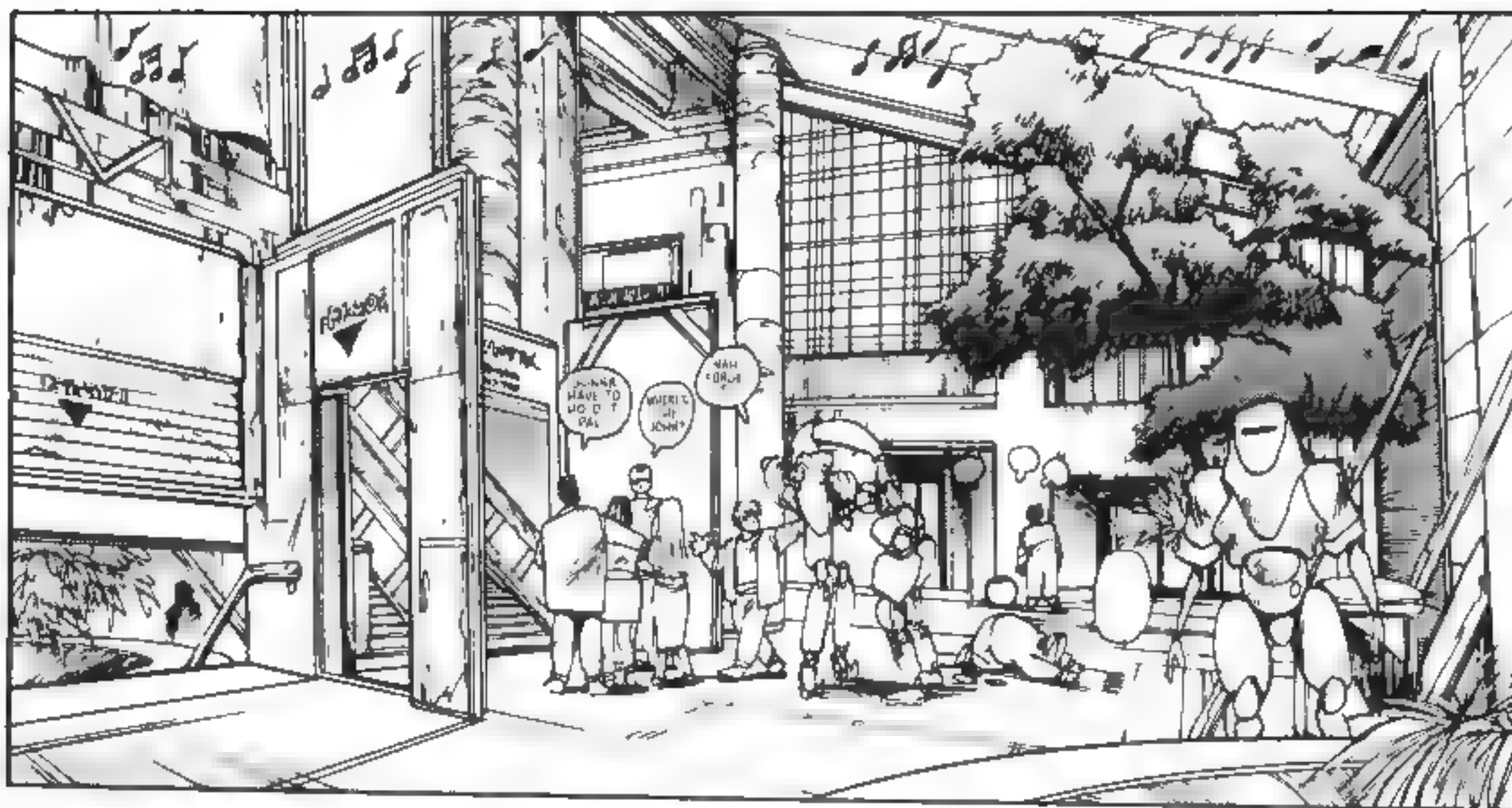
GISH!

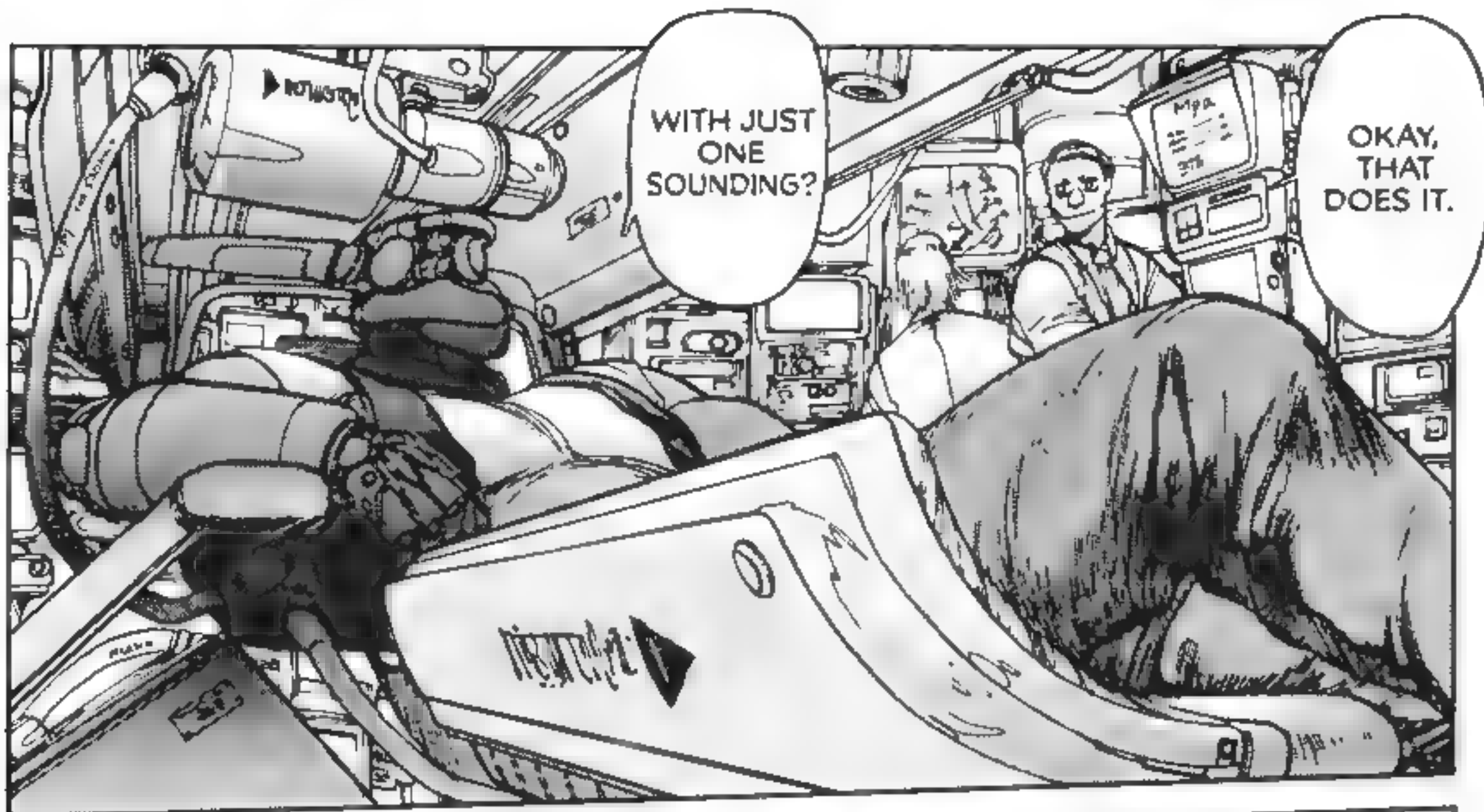






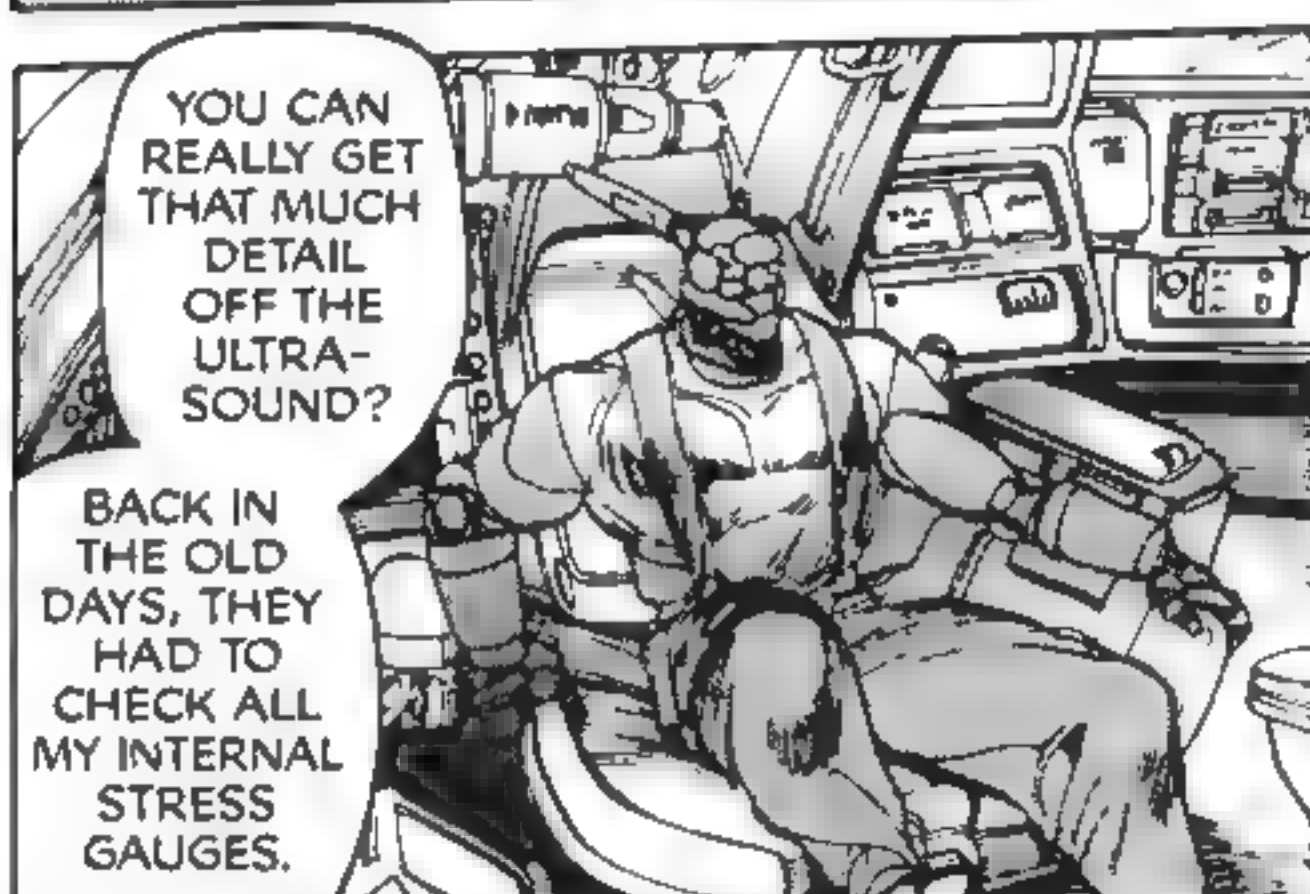






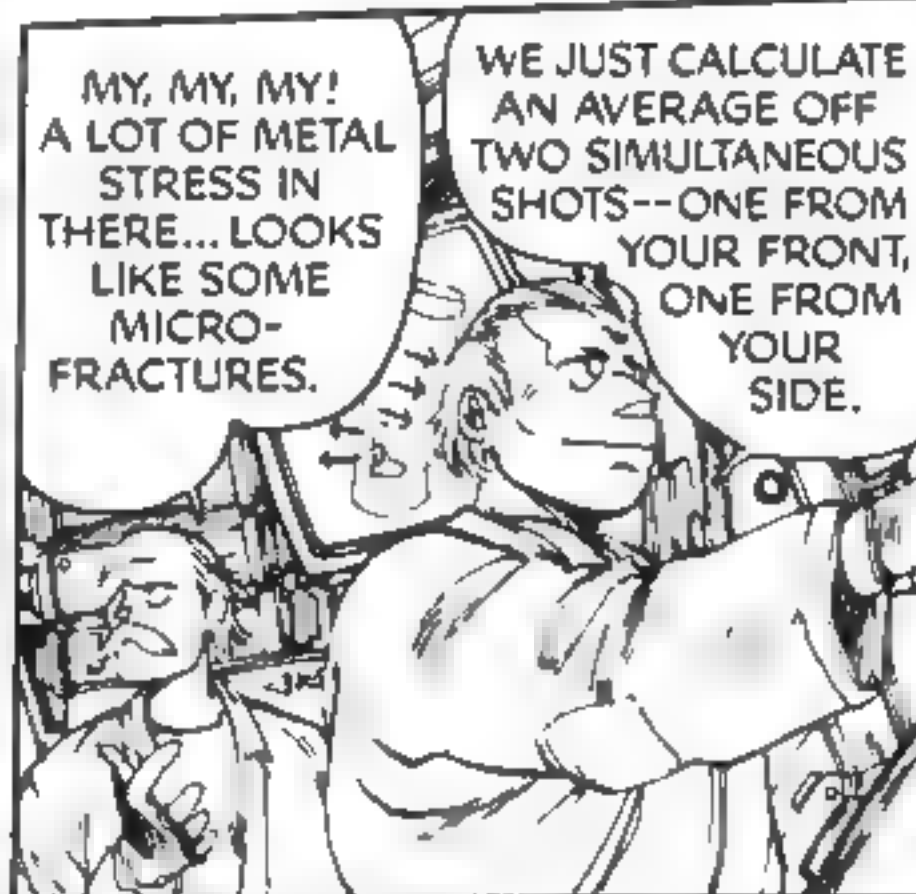
WITH JUST ONE SOUNDING?

OKAY, THAT DOES IT.



YOU CAN REALLY GET THAT MUCH DETAIL OFF THE ULTRA-SOUND?

BACK IN THE OLD DAYS, THEY HAD TO CHECK ALL MY INTERNAL STRESS GAUGES.



MY, MY, MY! A LOT OF METAL STRESS IN THERE... LOOKS LIKE SOME MICRO-FRACTURES.

WE JUST CALCULATE AN AVERAGE OFF TWO SIMULTANEOUS SHOTS--ONE FROM YOUR FRONT, ONE FROM YOUR SIDE.

A grid is shot off the key body parts and compared against the original master. Stress shows as a moiré pattern.

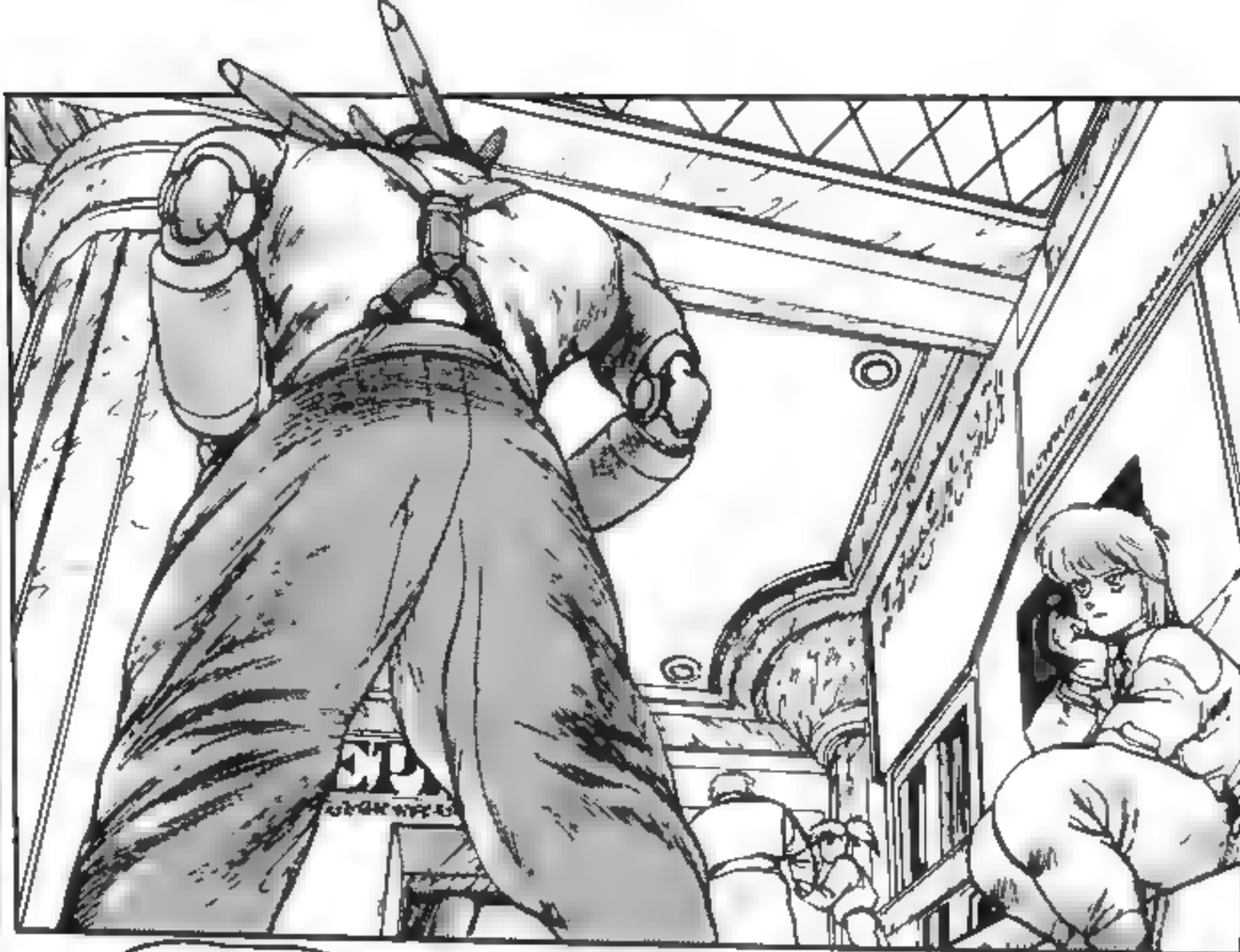


HAVING ALL THOSE OFFICIAL GADGETS INSIDE GIVES ME CRAMPS... STILL, GUESS I CAN'T JUST HAVE YOU YANK THEM.

ALAS...

WE'LL CALL YOU WHEN THE FINAL RESULTS COME IN. I'LL JUST HAVE THE COST DEDUCTED FROM YOUR ACCOUNT.





REALLY?!

ENOUGH, ENOUGH ALREADY. IT'S FASTER FOR ME JUST TO ADAPT TO YOUR NEW, ERRATIC BEHAVIOR PATTERNS.



I DON'T WANT TO QUIT THIS WORK. AND I DON'T WANT TO BE SENT BACK TO MY OLD UNIT.



HE SAYS YOU'LL BE OUT OF TRAINING BY THE END OF THE WEEK, SO LIGHTEN UP, OKAY?

YOU'RE AS STIFF AS A TEXTBOOK ON CLASSICAL APPLIED DYNAMICS.

WITHOUT YOU, SERIOUS OLD BRIAREOS AND HIS WEAPONS POD WOULD BE ROTTING ON THE VINE.

YOU'RE MY INDISPENSABLE POINTMAN. LANCE UNDERSTANDS THAT VERY WELL.



DOES THAT MEAN YOU'LL TEAM UP WITH ME AGAIN?



FX VREEE \*FX. WHMP



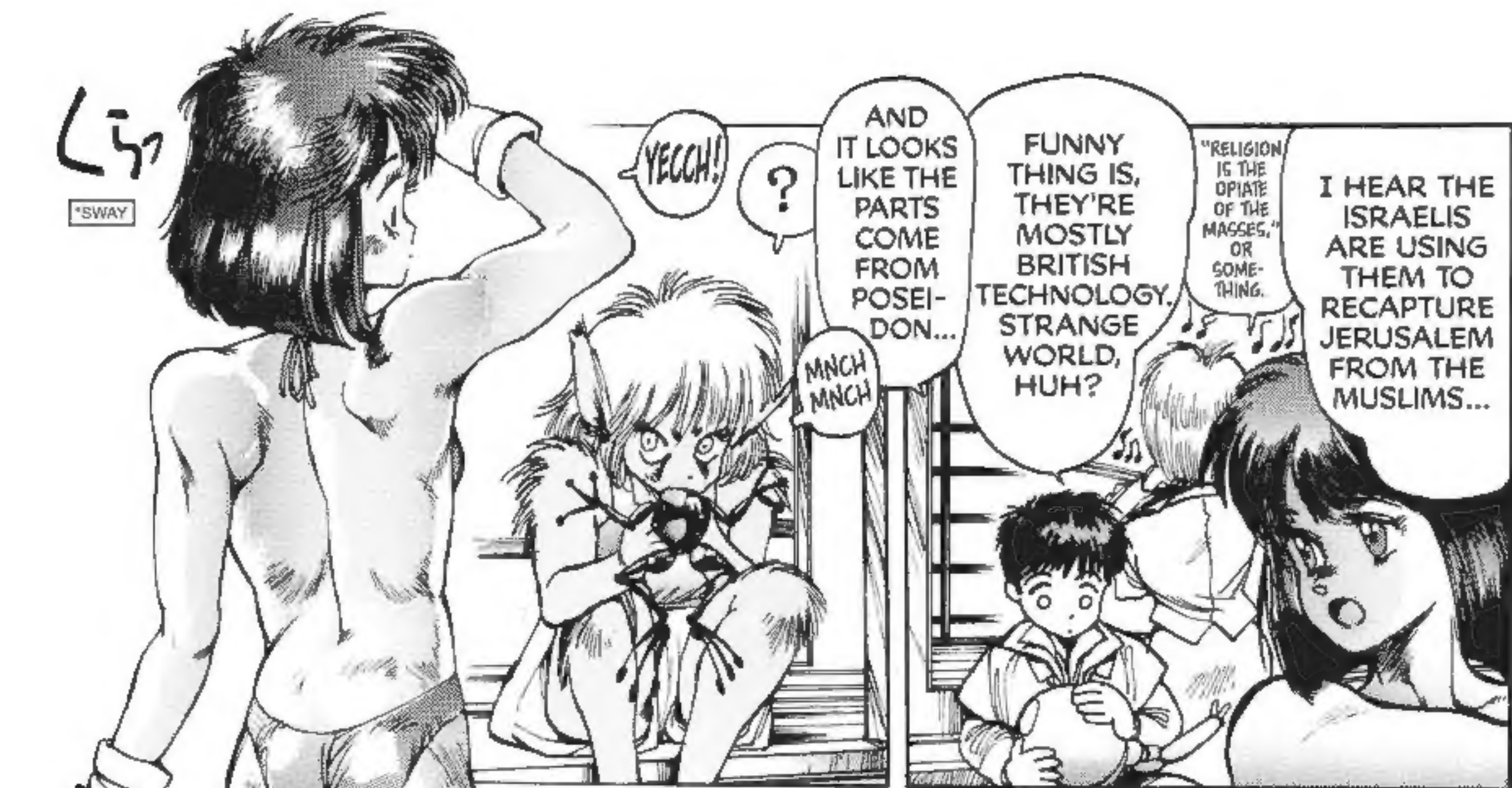






Greyhound English-bred mid-sized dogs with excellent running speed and eyesight. Used in hunting, racing, etc.





\*FX: EEEUUUWWWW



\*FX: POINK







\*FX: TOSS

UH,  
OH...

HERE  
GOES!

\*KSSSHHH

HURGK?!

BEEP

\*FX: KSSSHNKK

EYAA  
AAH!

(SQUISH)

I'M GLAD  
I WASN'T  
BORN IN A  
COUNTRY  
WHERE  
HUMOR HAD  
TO COME IN  
FROM THE  
COLD...

OR LIKE  
AFGHANI-  
STAN,  
MAYBE?

ALWAYS  
THE COMBAT  
PATTERN  
IS THE SAME--  
LIKE VIET-  
NAM!

AH, THE  
FINAL  
DEFEAT OF  
IMPERIAL-  
ISM!

あ  
は  
は  
は  
は  
は

\*HAHAHAHA

No  
to sé!



士 郎 正 宗 THE SCALES OF PROMETHEUS  
**APPLESEED**™

Stalking the ruins of New York City is Artemis, a renegade, flesh-eating bioroid (enhanced artificial human) carrying data critical to the future of Olympus, and the elite ESWAT is sent in to tranquilize her and bring her back home. But when Artemis recovers during transit, the powerful combat bioroid escapes into the city. ESWAT agents Deunan and Briareos are dispatched to bring in the feral Artemis, but will they emerge as heroes . . . or lunch?

From *Ghost in the Shell* creator Shirow Masamune comes the manga masterpiece *Appleseed*, the epic cyberpunk vision that deftly balances hardcore techno-science, wry political commentary, and explosive action, and inspired the wildly popular animated film.

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*This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.*





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